Hafa Adai!

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3 DAYS TO GO BEFORE ELECTION DAY

OPINION METER

This week's poll:
Do you plan to take your children trick-or-treating on Halloween night?

Let your voice be heard!
Go to
www.saipantribune.com
to cast your vote.

32 DAYS without a government budget for FY 2009

INSIDE

Election Update
Barack Obama's campaign has approached Illinois Rep. Rahm Emanuel about possibly serving as chief of staff.

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Migrants' Rights
Protecting the rights and livelihoods of millions of migrant workers during the global slowdown will benefit economies.

MAHARLIKE...Page 14

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US govt sues father, son over transfer of lands. **PAGE 5**

Govt health insurance premiums rise

By AGNES E. DONATO
agnes_donato@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Aguon

Premiums for the Commonwealth's employee health plan will rise by 12.9 percent, a sizeable increase from the previous year.

The NMI Retirement Fund, which administers the privatized Group Health and Life Insurance program, said that the health carrier, Aetna Global Benefits will implement the across-the-board increase today.

Fund administrator Mark Aguon in an interview said that Aetna's decision follows a trend among health insurance carriers across the nation. "Health care premiums in the United States have been going up. They [Aetna] did their best to minimize the increase. But in

See GOVT on Page 4

Failed vasectomy costs CNMI govt $906,000

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A Superior Court jury has found the CNMI government liable to pay $906,000 to a police officer and his wife who filed a medical malpractice lawsuit against the Commonwealth Health Center over a failed vasectomy surgery.

After deliberating for more than an hour, the six jurors reached a verdict Thursday afternoon. They determined that the Commonwealth was negligent

See FAILED on Page 4

Consumer cut in spending the most since 1980

By JEANNINE AVERSA
AP ECONOMICS WRITER

WASHINGTON (AP)—Scared and out of money, Americans stopped buying everything from cars to corn flakes in the July-September quarter, ratcheting back spending by the largest amount in 28 years and jolting the national economy into what could be the most painful recession in decades.

With retailers bracing for a grim holiday buying season, the economy isn't just slowing; it's actually shrinking, the government confirmed Thursday. It reported

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REY BELGADO

TRICK OR TREAT!
A woman dressed in a costume inspired by the ghost in the movie *The Ring* gives candy to a child trick-or-treating at Fiesta Resort and Spa yesterday afternoon. Children in varied costumes came out in droves yesterday to collect candies from the homes of neighbors, businesses, and government offices as part of celebrations of Halloween.

KRISTI EATON

CHC employees, along with Gov. Benigno Fitial and Lt. Gov. Timothy Villagomez, surround departing CHC Volunteers president Kim Coats, center.

Coats leaving CHC Volunteers, CNMI

By KRISTI EATON
Kristi_eaton@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

After nearly two decades and helping raise millions of dollars, Kim Coats is leaving her position as president of the Commonwealth Health Center's Volunteers Association to return to Toronto, Canada, to take care of her mother.

At a ceremony attended by CHC employees, as well as Gov. Benigno R. Fitial and Lt. Gov. Timothy Villagomez, Coats said she is going to miss the CNMI tremendously.

See COATS on Page 4

Local

Villagomez: I still go to work every day

By KRISTI EATON
kristi_eaton@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Lt. Gov. Timothy Villagomez said work has been business as usual for him.

"I go to work every single day," he said. "I do exactly what the Governor tells me to do. I check up with the various offices. It's business as usual, and is always business as usual."

Villagomez, who has made few public appearances since his August indictment, attended a ceremony at the Commonwealth Health Center yesterday for departing CHC volunteer Kim Coats.

"I think this is a special occasion," he said. "I've known Kim over the years. I hate to see her go, but my presence here is an indication of my support for her."

His late father started the volunteer program, he added.

KRISTI EATON

Lt. Gov. Timothy Villagomez, Margaret Villagomez and Gov. Benigno Fitial watch as Public Health Secretary Joseph Kevin Villagomez presents departing CHC volunteer Kim Coats with a plague yesterday.

Villagomez said his brother, Public Health Secretary Joseph Kevin Villagomez, asked him and Gov. Benigno Fitial to attend the ceremony if they have time.

"Joe requested the Governor and I stop by if we have time, and I do have time," he said.

In August, Villagomez, former Commerce Secretary James Santos, his wife Joaquina Villagomez Santos, and former Commonwealth Utilities Corp. executive director Anthony Guerrero were indicted on charges of conspiring to bilk CNMI and the U.S. government out of thousands of dollars through business deals involving chemical purchases for CUC. Villagomez's trial, along with his co-defendants, has been set for March 23, 2009.

Since the indictment, Villagomez, who attended the ceremony with his wife, Margaret, has made few public appearances, including Fitial's weekly press conferences. He said he was unable to attend Thursday's press conference because he had a scheduling conflict.

"But the Governor and I have met, and we're always in constant communication," he added.

Villagomez said he asked the U.S. District Court for the NMI to grant him permission to travel to Guam where his lawyer, David J. Lujan, is located because Lujan cannot always make it to the CNMI due to his busy schedule.

Asked if he had any Halloween plans, Villagomez said he was going to take his kids trick or treating and possibly dress up, although he did not know what he would wear because his wife was in charge of the costumes.

Live fire bombing on FDM

The Emergency Management Office, in conjunction with the U.S. Naval Forces Marianas Guam, said the U.S. military would be conducting live fire training on the island of Farallon de Mendenilla. The schedule date and time is as follows:

- Nov. 3-5, from 11:45am to 3pm
- Nov. 4-7, from 11:45am to 3pm

The general location of this activity will be on island of Farallon de Medenilla Training Area (R7201) on at 10 nautical mile radius on all quadrants.

Due to the danger imposed by this activity, EMO is strongly advising the public—especially fishermen, commercial pilots and marine tour operators—to stay away from this area during the time and date indicated.

For more information, contact the EMO's Operations Section at telephone numbers 322-9528 and 322-9529, VHF MARINE CHNL 16, at VHF Single Side Band Radio on 5.205.0. ***(PR)***

Commerce: Alcohol sampling regs 'consistent'

By STEFAN SEBASTIAN
stefan_sebastian@saipantribune.com
BUSINESS EDITOR

The CNMI Department of Commerce contends that its regulations for alcohol sampling events are consistent with local law in the face of criticism from a House lawmaker earlier this week.

In an Oct. 29 letter to Rep. Stanley Torres (R-Saipan), who cited an apparent conflict between the regulations and laws governing events where customers can sample alcohol, Commerce Secretary Michael Ada says the issue is now in the hands of the Office of the Attorney General but staff with his department argue the rules are in line with the law.

On Monday, Torres sent a letter to Commerce pointing to a law that says alcoholic beverage sampling events "may be conducted at any on-sale or off-sale licensed establishment." Torres noted that departmental regulations issued last year carry an added restriction not stipulated in the law.

Under the new regulations, said Torres, the owner of an establishment hosting a sampling event must have either a license to serve alcohol or written authorization from Commerce. The requirement that a licensee must own the bar, restaurant or other locale where the event takes place contradicts the law, he added.

"The regulations are in conflict with the law, which permits sampling activities or events to be conducted at any on-sale or off-sale establishment provided that it is a licensed establishment," Torres wrote. "In no part of this law does it state that a licensee must own the premises at which an on-sale or off-sale sampling activity or event takes place."

However, Ada in a letter says that the regulations are designed to ensure that sampling events occur within the framework of Commerce's regulations.

"The intent of this regulation is to ensure that if an individual or entity does not own the establishment at which they propose to hold the sampling event, that they receive prior written approval from the owner(s) of the establishment to be submitted along with their application," Ada said. "This assures the ABTC division that there is an approved location to host such an event."

Continental Airlines Operations Executive Vice President Mark Moran presents an award from the Independent Pet and Animal Transportation Association to Continental Micronesia employees in a ceremony at the airline's cargo warehouse in Tamuning yesterday, Oct. 30. 2008.

Continental cited for PetSafe program

HAGÅTÑA, Guam—Continental Airlines Executive Vice President for Operations Mark Moran presented Continental Micronesia co-workers with a plaque from the Independent Pet and Animal Transport Association in a ceremony at the airline's cargo warehouse in Tamuning Thursday, Oct. 30. The airline's PetSafe program was honored earlier this month at the IPATA conference in Newark.

IPATA, a group of 275 members from 58 countries, implemented a new "Award for Excellence" and chose Continental and its PetSafe program as its first honoree. Each Continental hub is being presented with a plaque in honor of this recognition.

Last year, Guam shipped and received a total of 1,301 animals in our PetSafe program. Year-to-date, 1,031 animals, including four live endangered Micronesian Kingfishers repatriated back to Guam, were handled through the airline's Guam operations.

"This award is an honor for our airline and a testament to the trust our customers place in us for handling their pets," said Moran.

Celebrating 40 years of service, Continental Micronesia last week successfully transported two sihek (Guam Micronesian kingfisher, *Halcyon cinnamomina cinnamomina*) back to Guam. The endemic birds arrived safely from Philadelphia to Guam on Wednesday, Oct. 22, on Continental's s PetSafe program.

ON THE NET
WWW.continental.com

Last month, the airline safely repatriated two sihek to Guam, and the two female birds were released from quarantine at the Guam Division of Aquatic and Wildlife facility on Oct. 10, 2008.

As the region's hometown carrier and pioneer in the development of air service for the western Pacific, we know our successes have been a result of our relationships with the communities we serve. Continental Micronesia proudly celebrates 40 years of bridging families, cultures, commerce, as well as Guam's pets and endangered birds, across the world.

Celebrating 40 years of service in Guam and Micronesia, Continental Micronesia is headquartered in Guam and operates a Pacific hub from the A.B. Won Pat International Airport.

For more company information, go to continental.com. ***(PR)***

Toribiong-Mariur tandem holds final rally on Saipan

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
n_rodriguez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

About three hundred Palauan voters on Saipan joined a rally by presidential and vice presidential candidate Johnson Toribiong and Kerai Mariur Thursday night at the Garapan Fishing Base in front of Kristo Rai Church.

Toribiong and Mariur will be up against the tandem of Elias Camsek Chin and Alan Seid in the runoff election after they topped the primary on Sept. 23.

The general elections at home is set on Nov. 4 but absentee voters in the CNMI, Guam and Hawaii will go to the polls today, Nov. 1.

Toribiong and Mariur took turns delivering speeches to convince Palauans who are living on Saipan to vote for them.

Ngiraked Toribiong, a practicing lawyer, entertained questions from the audience and spent some time explaining the 23 proposed amendments to the Palau Constitution. He was the Chairman of the Second Constitutional Convention in 2005.

Mariur was a member of the House of Delegates representing the State of Ngarchelong.

With the theme "Moving forward with the true Palauan spirit," Toribiong and Mariur are campaigning on a platform to prioritize the younger Palauan generation in government programs, encourage sustainable investments, expand investments in undeveloped islands, public health programs, keep the traditions and customs intact, preserve the dignity of senior citizens, affordable housing, maintaining good relations with the international community and a transparent leadership.

The other presidential and vice presidential tandem, current Vice President Chin and Senate Floor Leader Seid, previously conducted a similar campaign rally on Saipan.

Seid is expected to show up in a camp put up by their supporters today at the Minatchom Atdao.

The polling place is located at Building E of Marianas High School, which would be open today from 7am to 9pm.

There are over a thousand Palauans in the CNMI but the consulate office cannot determine the exact figure of registered absentee voters. Palau Consul Eileen Quintol said they could only estimate the number from about 300 to 500.

Palauan citizens would also be electing members of the Senate, which had been increased from nine to 13.

There are a total of 43 candidates for the Senate, the most in the history of Palau elections. The list includes outgoing President Tommy Remengesau Jr., who earlier this year was declared with former U.S. Vice President Al Gore as *Time Magazine*'s environment awardees of the year.

There are six incumbent senators, including Mlib Tmetuchl, Hokkons Baules, Santy Asanuma, Yukiwo Dengokl, Caleb Otto and Alfonso Diaz, while five are Remengesau's Cabinet Ministers, including Elbuchel Sadang (Finance), Temmy L. Shmull (State), Otoichi Besebes (Commerce and Trade), Fritz Koshiba (Resources and Development), and Mario Katosang (Education).

Only one member of the House of Delegate is seeking a Senate seat, Joel Toribiong, who represents the commercial capital of Koror in the lower chamber and is the younger brother of the other presidential candidate.

The others are lawyer Raynold Arnold Oilouch, businessman Mark U. Rudimch, Headstart Director Regina K. Mesebeluu, Masayuki Adelbai, Haruo Ngiraked Wilter, Gale Ngirmidol, Masa-Aki Emesiochel, Joan Hinang Demei, Adalbert Eledui, Jeff Ngrarsaol, Paul Ueki, Tadashi Sakuma, Martin Renguul, Elia Tulop, Ngirataoch Nick Ngiwal, Dair Sumang, James Unique Orak, Roman Yano, Radao Ngotel, Joel Toribiong, Jonh B. Skebong, Dwight Alexander, Regis Akitaya, J. Risong Tarkong, Ernest Ongidobel, Lorenza Olkeriil, Kathy Kesolie, Jennifer Sugiyama-Yano, Dilmei Olkeriil, Steven Kanai and Gillain Johannes.

NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.

Palau presidential candidate Johnson Toribiong answers questions from the audience while running mate Kerai Mariur waits for his turn during a campaign rally at the Garapan Fishing Base last Thursday night.

Red flag up at 14 beaches

Red flag warnings are up for 11 beach sites on Saipan and one on Rota.

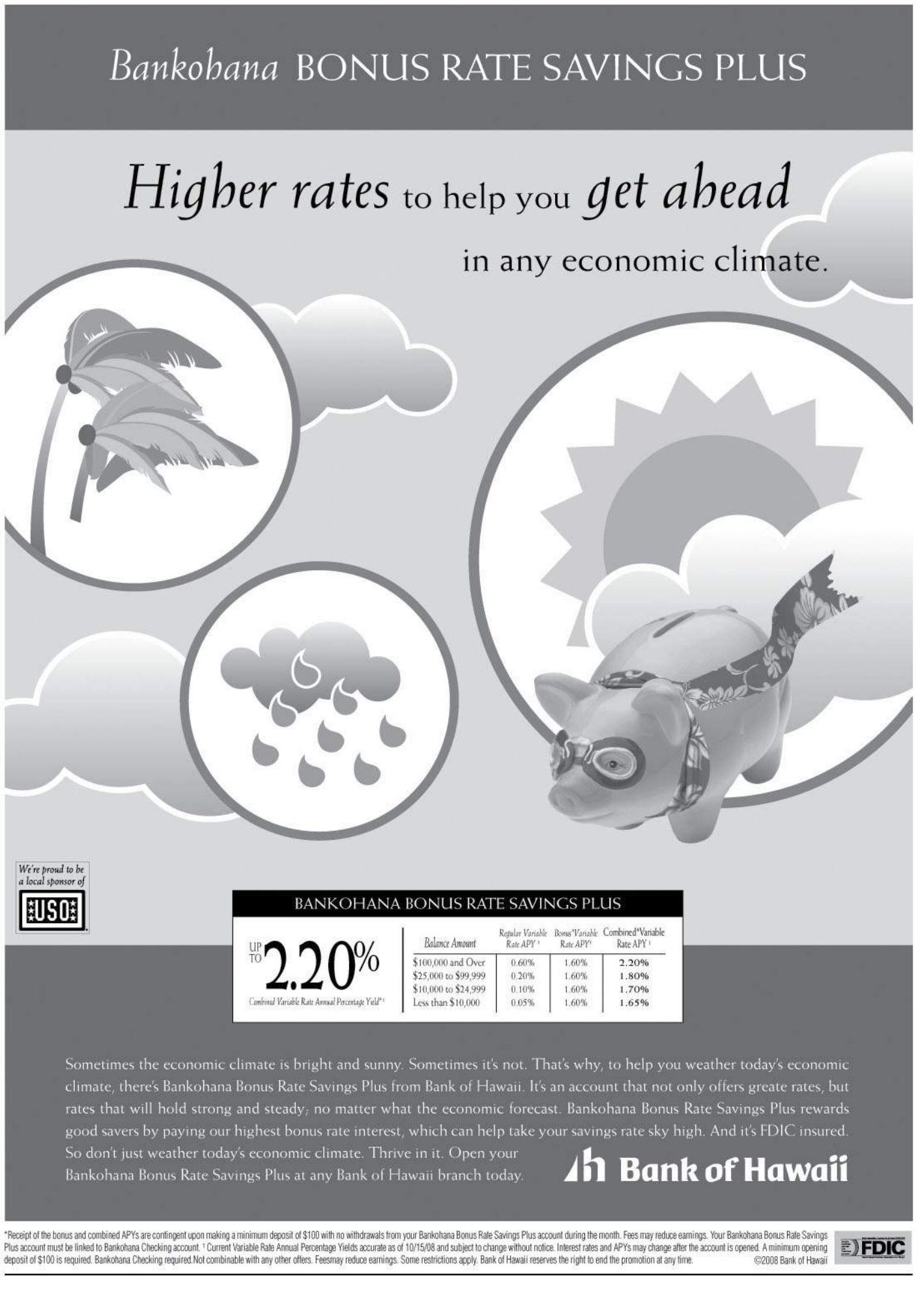
The Division of Environmental Quality has raised the red flag for the waters at Tanapag meeting hall, Central Repair Shop, Aqua Resort Hotel, DPW channel bridge, south Puerto Rico dump, Garapan fishing dock, Garapan Beach, Garapan beach drainage, Jeffries Beach, Marine Beach, Hidden Beach, North Laulau Beach, and south Laulau Beach on Saipan. A red flag waning is also in effect for West Harbor on Rota.

DEQ says the locations contained concentrations of fecal indicator bacteria, enterococci, that exceeded the CNMI's marine water quality standards. The agency urges the public not to fish or swim within 300 feet of these locations for the next 28 hours or until otherwise notified.

According to DEQ, the enterococci bacteria could indicate the presence of human and animal waste in the water. However, studies have shown that storm water runoff in tropical environments may also contain these bacteria from the natural environment, which may not be directly associated with public health concerns.

DEQ analyzes water samples collected from Saipan's recreational beaches and storm drainages in 50 locations on Saipan, 10 on Tinian, 12 on Rota, and 11 in the waters surrounding Managaha.

The public may contact DEQ at 664-8500 with any questions concerning the quality of the beach water. ***(Saipan Tribune)***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$100,000 and Over | 0.60% | 1.60% | 2.20%
$25,000 to $99,999 | 0.20% | 1.60% | 1.80%
$10,000 to $24,999 | 0.10% | 1.60% | 1.70%
Less than $10,000 | 0.05% | 1.60% | 1.65%
Sometimes the economic climate is bright and sunny. Sometimes it's not. That's why, to help you weather today's economic climate, there's Bankohana Bonus Rate Savings Plus from Bank of Hawaii. It's an account that not only offers greate rates, but rates that will hold strong and steady, no matter what the economic forecast. Bankohana Bonus Rate Savings Plus rewards good savers by paying our highest bonus rate interest, which can help take your savings rate sky high. And it's FDIC insured.
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*Receipt of the bonus and combined APYs are contingent upon making a minimum deposit of $100 with no withdrawals from your Bankohana Bonus Rate Savings Plus account during the month. Fees may reduce earnings. Your Bankohana Bonus Rate Savings Plus account must be linked to Bankohana Checking account. † Current Variable Rate Annual Percentage Yields accurate as of 10/15/08 and subject to change without notice. Interest rates and APYs may change after the account is opened. A minimum opening deposit of $100 is required. Bankohana Checking required. Not combinable with any other offers. Feesmay reduce earnings. Some restrictions apply. Bank of Hawaii reserves the right to end the promotion at any time.
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FDIC

SPOOKTACULAR HALLOWEEN REY BELGADO

The scary crew of Fiesta Resort and Spa Saipan pose with children and their parents during yesterday's celebration of Halloween.

GOVT

From Page 1

order to maintain the coverage, the premium increase has to come into effect," he said.

Aguon said the increase is expected to cost the government and the employees an additional $1.5 million in health care premiums. Currently, health care premiums total approximately $12 million a year.

He added, however, that the increase will have varying impacts on government agencies. Some agencies pay a higher percentage of the premiums than others. The government share in health care premiums ranges from 30 percent to 50 percent, according to Aguon.

In a letter to Finance Secretary Eloy S. Inos, Aguon reminded the CNMI government to make needed budgetary changes to take the premium increase into account.

Premium increases were also implemented simultaneously with the privatization of the group health insurance program last year. On Nov. 1, 2007, Aetna established uniform premium rates, which required subscribers to pay up to 43 percent and the government almost double for certain enrollees.

Group health insurance coverage is optional for government employees.

FAILED

From Page 1

by failing to meet the applicable standard care.

The jury awarded Police Officer Eric David $100,000 in emotional distress and another $100,000 in loss of consortium.

The jury awarded Tanya David $200,000 in emotional distress, $200,000 in pain and suffering from childbirth, and $100,000 in lost earnings.

The jurors also awarded the couple $100,000 in economic damages associated with raising their son from the time of his birth to the age of 18 and another $106,000 in economic damages for cost of childbirth.

The jurors determined that the Commonwealth's negligence resulted in Mrs. David's unplanned pregnancy and that Mr. and Mrs. David suffered harm as a couple and individual harm as a result.

Attorney George Hasselback was counsel for the David couple. Assistant Attorney General David Lochabay represented the CNMI government and CHC.

The David couple, together with their son, lodged the lawsuit in 2004 against Dr. John Yarofalir, who allegedly performed the failed vasectomy surgery on the officer sometime in 2004. Yarofalir was subsequently replaced by the government as defendant.

According to the jury instructions, the Commonwealth is responsible for the negligent acts of its employees. Therefore, by law, if Dr. Yarofalir was negligent, then the Commonwealth was negligent.

The complaint stated that the failed vasectomy surgery on Mr. David resulted in his wife's unplanned pregnancy, delaying her plans to complete her studies and eventually join the U.S. Army.

The complaint said Mrs. David was also made to take a prescription drug without her knowledge that she was pregnant, which is believed to have resulted in her baby's hearing problem.

CONSUMER

From Page 1

that the nation's gross domestic product declined at an annual rate of 0.3 percent in the year's third quarter and consumers' disposable income took its biggest drop on record.

In simpler words, "The train went off the tracks," said Brian Bethune, economist at IHS global Insight.

Wall Street took comfort in the fact that it wasn't even worse. The Dow Jones industrials rose 190 points.

But economists say tougher times are still ahead. Believing consumers are cutting back even more right now, they predict a much larger economic decline—anywhere from a 1 to 2 percent rate—during the current October-December period. That would meet a classic definition of a recession—two straight quarters of shrinking GDP.

Not that there's any real doubt now.

Clobbered by pink slips, shrinking nest eggs and falling home values—consumers are holding ever tighter to their wallets. The new report said Americans' disposable income fell at an annual rate of 8.7 percent in the quarter, the largest in records dating back to 1947.

The dismal news came just days before the nation picks the next president. Whether Democrat Barack Obama or Republican John McCain wins the White House, he will inherit a deeply troubled economy and a record-high budget deficit that could cramp his spending plans.

Each side said the new figures supported its political case.

"The decline in GDP didn't happen by accident—it is a direct result of the Bush administration's trickle down, Wall Street first, Main Street last policies that John McCain has embraced for the last eight years," Obama said. He pledged to provide tax relief to middle class families and help people facing foreclosure.

Pointing to the economy's sad state, Doug Holtz-Eakin, senior policy adviser for the McCain campaign, shot back that "Barack Obama would accelerate this dangerous course." McCain said his tax cuts, free-trade policies and help to struggling homeowners would help turn things around.

More than in recent recessions, consumers—the lifeblood of the economy—are bearing the brunt of the country's housing, banking and other ailments. The third-quarter decline in their spending was the first in 17 years, and the 3.1 percent annualized cutback was staggering—the most since the spring of 1980 when the country was in the grip of what some call the worst downturn since the Great Depression.

Walloped by such a huge pullback, the economy toppled into negative territory.

The latest reading on GDP, which measures the value of all goods produced within the United States, showed a rapid turn from the 2.8 percent growth rate logged in the second quarter. The new figure was the worst since the 1.4 percent rate of decline in the third quarter of 2001, when the nation was suffering through its most recent recession.

Democrats on Capitol Hill are pushing for another economic stimulus package and are weighing whether to hold a lame duck session before the new president takes office.

Under attack from Democrats and Republicans alike, the White House defended giving billions of bailout dollars to banks that now are rewarding shareholders and executives—or even buying other banks—rather than making loans to consumers and businesses.

Ed Lazear, chairman of the Council of Economic Advisers, said the government is keeping close tabs on banks' use of the money, but he also said normal activities such as paying performance-related salaries or distributing dividends are allowed under the law Congress passed.

White House press secretary Dana Perino said that "not only rich people get dividend payments," which can form a significant portion of income for retirees and mutual funds.

A collapse of the housing market and locked-up lending have produced the worst financial crisis to hit the country in more than 70 years.

To cushion the fallout, the Fed slashed interest rates on Wednesday by half a percentage point to 1 percent, a level seen only once before in the last half century.

Fed Chairman Ben Bernanke has warned that the country's economic weakness could last for some time—even if the government's unprecedented $700 billion financial bailout package and other steps do succeed in getting financial and credit markets to operate more normally.

"As of now, most forecasts indicate that we will experience a serious recession, perhaps comparable to the recession of the early 1980s, but nothing like the Great Depression," said Simon Johnson, former chief economist to the International Monetary Fund and senior fellow at the Peterson Institute for International Economics. During the 1980-1982 recession, unemployment topped 10 percent.

RELATED NEWS

Beaten down, American consumers burrow deeper.

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COATS

From Page 1

"Oh my God, this is my home," she said. "But it's a new adventure. I really enjoy adventures."

Coats originally came to the CNMI after visiting Guam, a vacation that was not easy to plan. She said she was looking through the atlas and found Guam. Being a history buff, she was aware of the territory, but did not know much about it. It took three months and three calls to the State Department to find out how to get to the island, she said.

She visited the CNMI in April 1989, and by September 1989 she moved back to the Commonwealth with her husband. She thought it would be a two-year adventure, but it turned into 19 years.

"My husband and I are big history lovers, and this is history. We just fell in love," she said.

As president of CHC Volunteers, Coats worked with 15 staff volunteers. The volunteers are responsible for many of the fundraising efforts, as well as running the hospital's gift shop.

"The main purpose of CHC Volunteers is to raise money to purchase things for the hospital that does not fit into the budget," she said. "We raise money for those little extras: TVs, wheelchairs, warm blankets, pillow cases."

She said she helped start a women's group that puts together baby packages for newborns.

Public Health Secretary Joseph Kevin Villagomez said he is sad to see Coats depart but understands why she is leaving.

"I will miss her not only as a CHC volunteer, but as a very, very good friend," he said. "But the reason for her leaving is exactly what we cherish in this community, that she going to take care of her mom, which is something that, although we are sad to see her leave, we embrace the fact that she is going to take care of a family member."

US govt sues father, son over transfer of lands

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

ETC DONATION

The Oleai Elementary School extends its gratitude to Joeten Development Inc. dba Price Costco for its recent Education Tax Credit donation of $1,000. From left, Jack Sablan, vice principal; Glenn Muna, principal; James Sablan, Price Costco Representative; Anthony Taylor, along with the Kindergarten class and 4th grade student Jamal Sablan.

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The U.S. government filed Thursday a civil lawsuit in federal court against businessman Candido I. Castro for the transfer of his lands on Tinian to his son to allegedly defraud the United States in its effort to collect the $179,418.01 balance in connection with his mail fraud conviction in 2002.

The U.S. government, through Assistant U.S. Attorneys Mikel W. Schwab and Jessica F. Cruz, also named Castro's son, Sean Castro, as co-defendant.

The government lawyers asked the U.S. District Court for the NMI to rule that the transfer of Candido Castro's interest in five lots on Tinian and another land on Saipan were fraudulent and void.

The plaintiff sought judgment preventing Sean Castro from disposing or diminishing the value of the properties or any property that he owns or has an interest in.

The U.S. government also asked that Candido Castro be required to immediately satisfy his criminal monetary obligations.

Candido Castro was convicted on two counts of mail fraud on April 2, 2002. The criminal judgment imposed a $100 special assessment, $100,000 in restitution plus interest, a $30,000 fine, and costs of incarceration and supervision.

Schwab and Cruz said the entry of the criminal judgment created a lien in favor of the U.S. on all of Candido Castro's property and/or rights to property.

They cited that the judgment requires Candido Castro to notify the court and the U.S. Attorney of any change in his economic circumstances.

The lawyers said Candido Castro failed to disclose his conveyance of four lots on Tinian, one lot on Saipan, and his future transfer of another piece of land on Tinian in his financial statement dated Oct. 17, 2006.

They said Candido Castro also failed to disclose his conveyance of the five lots in his financial affidavit dated May 16, 2008.

The prosecutors said that as of June 30, 2008, Candido Castro has satisfied his special assessment debt and a total of $22,700 has been paid over and applied toward his restitution debt.

This, the prosecutors said, has left a balance of $125,684.65 in restitution, $30,000 fine, $14,614.92 in incarceration costs, and $9,118.44 in supervision costs.

They alleged that, on Sept. 23, 2005, Candido Castro conveyed to Sean Castro six land properties in Marpo, Tinian and another property on Capital Hill, Saipan.

On Dec. 2, 2005, Candido Castro conveyed to Sean Castro another land in Marpo, Tinian.

On Oct. 25, 2006, only eight days after filing his 2006 financial statement, Candido Castro conveyed to Sean Castro another land in Marpo, Tinian.

"At the time that defendant Candido Castro made the conveyance, he did not receive reasonably equivalent value in exchange for the conveyance of his interest and rights in the properties," the prosecutors said.

They alleged that Candido Castro did not comply with the law and the criminal judgment by failing to notify the court and the U.S. of the conveyance.

"Candido Castro conveyed the property to hinder, delay, or defraud the United States in its efforts to collect on [his] criminal judgment," the prosecutors said.

The conveyance, the lawyers said, impaired the rights of the U.S. and the victims in that Candido Castro is now insolvent and has no money or property out of which the debt can be satisfied.

MVA attends Guam Military Travel Fairs

The Marianas Visitor's Authority attended and displayed at two Guam Military Travel Fairs that took place on Oct. 16 and 18, 2008.

The first show was the Annual Andersen Travel Fair, which took place in the heart of Andersen Air Force Base in the northern part of Guam. The second opportunity to show military personnel what Saipan, Tinian, and Rota have to offer came at the Navy (MWR) 3rd Annual Travel Fair "Around the World At A Glance," which took place in the Top O' the Mar on Guam.

Active military personnel and their families attended these events, which drew approximately 500 guests each for more than a thousand potential visitors to the CNMI. MVA personnel had the opportunity to display Saipan, Tinian and Rota's hospitality, leisure, recreational and entertainment options.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

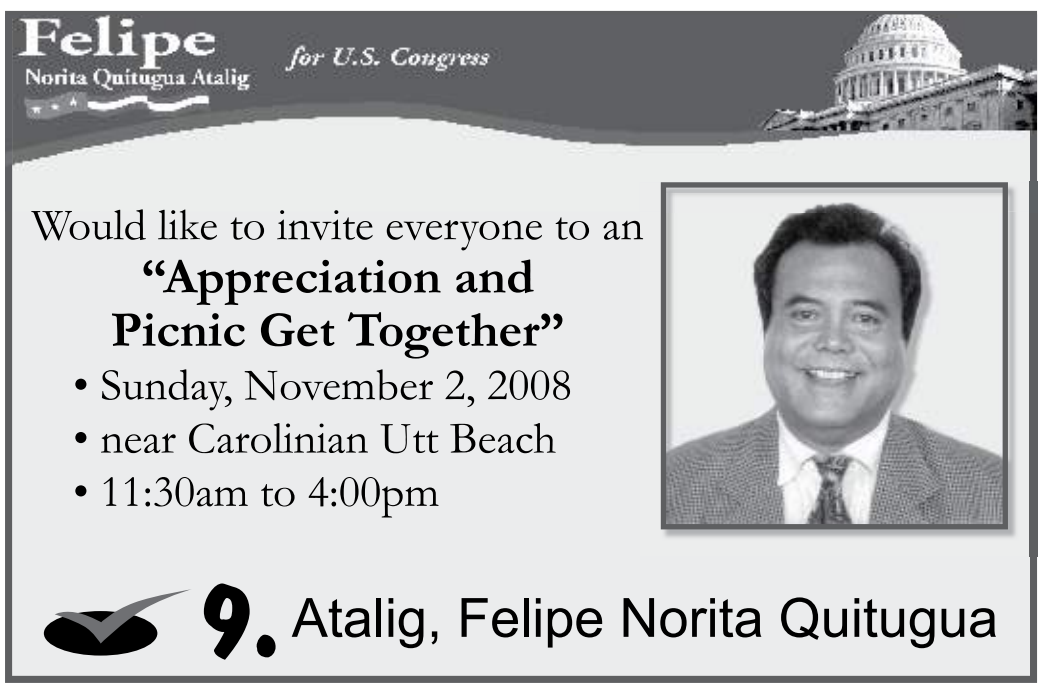
Military personnel check out brochures on Saipan, Tinian and Rota.

"We recognize the importance of the military buildup in Guam in providing potential new travelers to the CNMI," said MVA managing director Perry Tenorio. "MVA is committed to growing our tourism arrivals from Guam and is especially interested in encouraging military personnel and their families visit the CNMI for rest and recreation." ***(MVA)***

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

ACT information session

The Association of Commonwealth Teachers will be hosting a public information session on their recent research project on the Highly Qualified Teacher requirements in the No Child Left Behind Act, as they pertain to the CNMI. ACT will also share their recent recommendations to the Board of Education regarding proposed amendments to the current PSS plan for Highly Qualified Teachers. All teachers and interested members of the community are welcome to join us. The meeting will be held Thursday, Nov. 6, at 7pm in the San Vicente Elementary cafeteria. A brief general membership meeting will follow. ***(PR)***


Felipe
Norita Quitugua Atalig
for U.S. Congress
Would like to invite everyone to an
"Appreciation and Picnic Get Together"
• Sunday, November 2, 2008
• near Carolinian Utt Beach
• 11:30am to 4:00pm
9. Atalig, Felipe Norita Quitugua

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

Pursuant to 4 CMC, Div. 7, Section 7306 (i) of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Oceania Insurance Corporation is making its intention known of increasing the company's paid-up capital and surplus in accordance with this statute.

HENRY TORRES
General Manager
OIC Marianas Insurance Corporation
1st Flr. Chong's Bldg.
Pale Arnold Rd., Gualo Rai
PMB 229 Box 10000
Saipan, MP 96950

COASTAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT OFFICE

NOTICE OF MEETING OF THE CRM AGENCY OFFICIALS

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 11, Governor Benigno R. Fitial and Lt. Governor Timothy T. Villagomez through the Coastal Resources Management Office (CRMO) hereby give notice that a CRM Agency Officials meeting will be held on Thursday, November 06, 2008, at 9:00 A.M. at the CRM conference room, 1st floor Morgen Building, Oleai, Saipan.

AGENDA

I. PRELIMINARY MATTERS
- a) Call to Order
- b) Roll Call

II. PERMIT APPLICATION
1. Tinian Ocean View Resort & Casino Project-CRM Permit No. TMS-2008-X-083
2. Matua Bay Resort & Golf Course-CRM Permit No. TMS-2008-X-074
3. Ming Commercial Building-CRM Permit No. SMS-2008-X-034
4. Marianas Shipyard Dry Dock Facility – CRM Permit No. SMS-2008-X-032
   - a. Permit application/summary by CRMO
   - b. Discussion by CRM Agencies/CRMO
   - c. Permit Status (CRMO/CRM Agencies)

III. OTHER MATTERS

IV. ADJOURNMENT

All interested persons are welcome to attend and to submit written or oral testimony on the above agenda items. [Note: Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 13(a)(7) and Section 13(c), the Board may vote to meet in executive session.]

/s/ JOHN B. JOYNER, Ph.D.
Director

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
Volume XVIII, Issue No. 306

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Lynn Knight PUBLISHER
Jayvee L. Vallejera EDITOR
Mark Rabago ASSISTANT EDITOR

MEMBER
The Associated Press Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

Political trick-or-treat

Is it OK to hang an effigy of Sarah Palin from a noose, as a West Hollywood, Calif., couple has recently become infamous for doing, but not an effigy of Barack Obama?

Some conservatives, including Los Angeles County Supervisor Michael Antonovich, see a double standard at play. Antonovich has ordered county counsel to investigate whether the misguided Halloween display at a house is a hate crime. "If there was an African American hanging from a tree, would that not constitute a hate crime?" he asked.

Antonovich is not the only one angry at ChadMichael Morrisette and partner Mito Aviles, who decorated their home with a figure representing Palin hanging from a roof beam and a figure of John McCain surrounded by fake flames on the chimney. Keith Olbermann displayed a photo of Morrisette during his MSNBC show Monday night and named him that day's "worst person in the world." Right-wing bloggers pointed out the hypocrisy of liberals who condone violent imagery against Republicans while decrying Republican attacks on Obama.

Everybody take a deep breath. Some critics of the display seem unclear on a couple of concepts: the difference between political speech and hate speech, and the symbolic resonance that nooses hold for African Americans.

It is undeniably true that if a figure of Obama had been depicted hanging from a noose, it would have attracted more outrage than the image of Palin. That's because of a horrifying history of lynchings of black men in the American South, a history that makes the noose as offensive among blacks as the swastika is for Jews. It's also true that as long as it was clear that the hanging figure represented Obama or another prominent black politician rather than a private citizen, it wouldn't be legally actionable as a hate crime. Our laws give broad latitude to clear expressions of political opinion, as opposed to incitements to violence against ethnic groups. So while conservatives are right to suppose that such an offensive depiction of Obama would attract enormous anger, they're wrong to think it would be treated differently under the law.

That said, the West Hollywood display falls under the axiom, "Just because you can, doesn't mean you should." There are some forms of expression that poison our political discourse and needlessly deepen our divisions. They include inflammatory and untrue statements, such as the McCain campaign's assertions that Obama is a socialist or that he "pals around with terrorists," and depictions of violent acts against politicians, such as hanging them in effigy. Morrisette and Aviles could do their neighborhood, Los Angeles and the country a favor by replacing their Halloween horror show with an early Christmas display; an inflatable Santa would be nice.

(c) 2008, Los Angeles Times

Who's really rich, and why does it matter?

By MITCHELL ROFSKY
SPECIAL TO THE LOS ANGELES TIMES

Does an income of $250,000 really make one "rich," as Barack Obama says? That's the point at which taxes would begin to go up under Obama's tax plan, and that's the annual income he cited in August when asked by church leader Rick Warren to give his definition of "rich."

Liberals, unlike conservatives, need an accurate definition of wealth because they think it's an important distinction. Democrats are constantly fighting to make taxes more progressive, and the definition of wealth is the subtext of nearly each successive hot economic topic—including the alternative minimum tax, the Bush tax cuts, Social Security and even the current financial crisis and proposals for tax surcharges starting at $1 million. (Republicans, by contrast, don't believe that taxes should be based on one's ability to pay, so they don't really care who's rich and who isn't.)

Unfortunately, the liberal definitions of wealth make little sense. Hillary Rodham Clinton and John Edwards identified even lower amounts than $250,000 as rich. One liberal columnist recently asserted that earning in the top 3 percent (roughly $200,000) makes you "economic royalty." I guess they figure that's reasonable, given that the median income in the United States is about $50,000.

But percentages are pretty arbitrary. Why stop at the U.S.? Why not consider the whole world? Considered globally, an income of $50,000 puts you in the top 1 percent. Do you feel richer now?

In my opinion, wealth is an absolute, not a relative, concept. You're not rich just because you make more than I do (believe me). What's more, being rich isn't really about income. It's about assets.

A more useful definition would be: savings sufficient to live an affluent life without working.

Just how much is that? There is no one answer. This is John McCain's and Obama's second mistake. Where you live (and the related cost of living, local taxes, etc.) and your family size are keys to whether you are rich.

But it is possible to determine how much in assets would generate, say, $250,000 of income annually. If we assume that one withdraws 5 percent of one's savings annually for living expenses (a reasonable amount in order to keep up with inflation and not deplete your capital), then it would require about $5 million in post-tax/$7.5 million in pre-tax savings to generate $250,000. The accuracy of this definition can be tested by comparing it with the traditional standard of what was once considered rich: For most of the 20th century, you were rich if you were a millionaire. Today, it takes roughly $7 million in current dollars to equal the $1 million of 1960, according to MeasuringWorth.com. By the same measure, $250,000 today is the same as roughly $35,000 in 1960. Did anyone think that an annual income of $35,000 was rich then? (The answer is no. Not even close.)

In fact, a household earning $250,000 today would have difficulty squeezing out even $50,000 in savings every year—much less quitting work and buying the second homes and yachts and private planes that we associate with the truly rich. Obama must realize this.

So what's really going on here? Just this: Obama wants to raise taxes but doesn't want to hit those perceived as middle class. But his inaccurately low definition actually hurts liberals, for a number of reasons. For one thing, there are no doubt a substantial number among the 12 million-plus households reporting $100,000-$200,000 in annual income who are put off by the prospect of having to pay higher taxes if their income grows.

The inaccurate definition also alienates allies among the right who might support higher taxes at higher levels of income. Conservative columnist Ben Stein, for instance, is pushing for a 10 percent surcharge on the incomes of the truly rich—those whose incomes exceed $5 million—to be devoted to health care. Liberals are paying little attention.

It's also based on a fallacy that if you want to generate any real government revenue, you have to increase taxes on the many households that earn between $250,000 and $500,000 a year. Yet there is now more taxable income among the 140,000 households that report earning more than $2 million annually than there is among the 10 times as many that earn between $250,000 and $500,000. This does not mean that taxes shouldn't be touched for those making between $250,000 and $500,000, but why should they pay the same rate as someone making $2.5 million or $25 million?

Finally, the misdefinition distracts from the maldistribution of wealth—which is much worse than the maldistribution of income—and from the focus on policies to address it, such as the inheritance tax or a more progressive capital-gains tax.

Maybe what we need is a new term for those who have a lot of money but not enough to just stop working. The Near Rich? The Kinda Comfortable? The Ultra-Middle Class?

If Obama and populist liberals won't define wealth accurately, then taxes will never be as progressive as they should be, and they will continue to hurt their own cause. After all, if millions of voters are unfairly labeled rich by the Democrats, they might as well vote for the party of the rich—which is, of course, the Republican Party.

Rofsky, former chairman of Business for Social Responsibility, headed the Working Assets Mutual Funds, a socially responsible mutual fund.

EDITORIAL POLICY The *Saipan Tribune* welcomes comments on any article, column, editorial, or topic that may be of interest to the public. Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, Century Insurance Building, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

The election that has the whole world blogging

By JOSE ANTONIO VARGAS
(C) 2008, THE WASHINGTON POST

Martin Perez lives in Parañaque, a suburb of Manila, an ocean and a few time zones from the United States. But when he gets up at 5 a.m. to get ready for work, the high school teacher goes online to read the latest news in the U.S. presidential race, study poll numbers, watch YouTube videos—and blog about the McCain-Obama showdown.

"It's official. This US Election matters to me more than it should," Perez wrote shortly after the first presidential debate. His two-year-old blog, Ako Mismo, or "I, Myself" in Tagalog, is written mostly in English, with some Tagalog mixed in. In a phone interview, the 25-year-old says following the White House race has been "like a religion."

The Web is flat, especially when it comes to this marathon campaign. Every twist and turn, every new character, not only unfolds stateside in real time, endlessly commented on by the blogosphere, but also keeps the rest of the world on its collective mouse, with bloggers from countries as disparate as the Philippines, South Africa and Brazil glued to the historic race.

Differing time zones aren't considered barriers on the Web, where different languages can be easily translated on Google. Sure, many foreigners have paid attention to America's presidential elections through newspapers and television in the past. But the continued mainstreaming of the Internet, online experts say, has given non-Americans access to more information than ever before—and, through blogging, an interactive platform to express their views. David Sifry, founder of the search engine Technorati, says, "As the tools have gotten simpler and easier to use, there's been an absolute explosion in the number of bloggers outside of the U.S., and one of the subjects they blog about is politics."

And right now, American politics.

Just visit Voices Without Votes, an aggregator of the international blogosphere. An offshoot of the nonprofit site Global Voices , which aims to summarize the goings-on in every blogging corner of the World Wide Web, the site focuses solely on the U.S. presidential race.

Voices Without Votes was born in early February—yep, in time for Super Tuesday—and it's edited by Amira Al Hussaini, 35, a journalist from Bahrain who lives in Canada. The site's motto reads: "America votes. The world speaks." Recent elections in Zimbabwe and New Zealand have attracted some attention online, Al Hussaini says, but not nearly to the extent that the battle for the American presidency has.

"The Internet makes the world smaller, just a few clicks away, right?" says Al Hussaini, former news editor at the Gulf Daily News, the largest English newspaper in Bahrain. With Voices, she says, "Americans can see, if they don't realize it already, that their votes affect the rest of us when it comes to foreign policy, the environment, the global market, you name it."

The site has garnered fewer than 100,000 pages views since its launch. But what Voices lacks in traffic, it makes up for in the scope of its content. There's nothing else quite like it.

> *Americans can see, if they don't realize it already, that their votes affect the rest of us when it comes to foreign policy, the environment, the global market, you name it.*

Voices is funded by Reuters, whose server hosts the site, though Mark Jones, Reuters's global community editor, says the news service doesn't control what's on it. That falls to Al Hussaini, the site's only paid staffer. She manages an eclectic group of about 20 volunteers, all in their 20s and 30s, who speak English and other languages.

Scattered throughout the world, they scour the Internet, reading blogs and searching for mentions of the upcoming election. From February to August, 300 to 400 blog entries were featured on the site. It grew to 800 in September and about 1,100 this month.

There's no single directory of international blogs, Al Hussaini says, and she and her staff specialize in specific regions. They make sure that no one region is overrepresented on the site. It's a labor-intensive process. Though many sign their names in their blogs, just as many do not. Each volunteer has to read the blog and contact and locate the blogger. "A lot of people write blogs without telling you where they're from," explains Al Hussaini, who speaks Arabic and monitors about 1,000 blogs in the Middle East. Most bloggers write in English. Some, however, need translating.

Volunteer Paula Goes grew up in Bahia, in northeastern Brazil. She moved to London six years ago and works as a translator. Brazil is a country of mixed races, says the 32-year-old, and many Brazilians are closely watching Sen. Barack Obama—so much so that, as Goes wrote in a blog for Voices, six candidates in the country's local elections added "Obama" to their names. (None of them won.) "The Portuguese blogs have been all over this election," Goes says in an interview.

When Sen. John McCain visited Iraq in April, Iraqi bloggers chimed in. "I'll bet you anything, that the Americans will vote for McCain," blogger Layla Anwar predicted. Like many Americans, foreigners reacted with surprise at McCain's choice of Palin as his running mate. Some heralded the pick. Others didn't. A blogger in Kuwait, citing both Palin and Sen. Hillary Clinton, wrote on a site called Teach the Masses, "All in all this is a good lesson for the girls in our schools—they have seen through Hillary Clinton and now Sarah Palin what a woman with an education can do." But a blogger in France wrote of Palin: "She is someone who believes in creationism and who thinks that global warming is a hoax! In the most scientifically advanced nation in the world, this is beyond shocking."

Al Hussaini says Voices tries to feature postings on McCain and Obama equally. She points to a Pakistani blogger who thought McCain won the first presidential debate, which was intended to focus on foreign policy. Still, there's no contest when it comes to online global popularity. Echoing the results of recent Gallup polls conducted in 70 countries showing overwhelming support for the Democratic nominee, most international bloggingheads are fascinated by Obama. On a site called If the World Could Vote, created by a 23-year-old Obama supporter in Iceland, about 475,000 people from 200 countries have cast their ballots. As of Monday, Obama trumps McCain, 87 percent to 13 percent.

Perez, the high school teacher in Manila, can rattle off every state that Obama won in the primaries. Even his margins of victories. And state polls that now show him in the lead. "I've been too busy paying attention to this American election," Perez says, "that I don't really know what's going on here in the Philippines."

The Age of Triumphalism is over

By ANDREW J. BACEVICH
SPECIAL TO THE LOS ANGELES TIMES

All but lost amid the hullabaloo of the American presidential campaign, the U.S. State Department recently dropped North Korea from its list of state sponsors of terrorism. Kim Jong Il pocketed a concession that even a year ago would have seemed unimaginable. The American people—feeling more threatened by Wall Street than by Pyongyang—managed barely a shrug.

Seldom has a historic turning point received such little notice. By cutting a deal with a charter member of his declared "axis of evil," President Bush definitively has abandoned the principles he staked out in the wake of the attacks of Sept. 11, 2001. The president who once defined America's purpose as "ending tyranny" is now accommodating the world's last authentically Stalinist regime. Although Bush still inhabits the White House, the Bush era effectively has ended.

So, too, has the latest in a series of American psychodramas. In the past year or so, the nation's collective mind-set has shifted, and with that shift have come dramatic changes in the way we see ourselves and the world beyond our borders.

The American preference for packaging history as a sequence of great events directed by great men tends to overlook the role played by mass psychology and by the powerful impulses contained within what we commonly call public opinion. The reality is that when it comes to statecraft, policies devised in Washington frequently express not so much the carefully calculated intentions of the nation's leaders as the people's frame of mind.

President Polk, for instance, came into office in 1845 determined to separate California from Mexico. Yet what enabled Polk to convert ambition into action was the concept of Manifest Destiny—the popular conviction that it had become incumbent on Americans to spread freedom westward to the Pacific Ocean. Polk didn't invent Manifest Destiny and didn't really control it, but he shrewdly offered this deeply felt urge an outlet, thereby transforming what might otherwise have seemed a naked land-grab into a righteous crusade. The result was the immensely successful Mexican War.

Similarly, in 1898, through war with Spain, the United States acquired an empire, annexing Puerto Rico, the Philippines and Hawaii. But it was popular fervor for liberating oppressed Cubans, not President McKinley's hankering for colonies, that convinced millions of Americans that Spain's continued presence in the Caribbean was simply intolerable. Supplanting Spanish power with American power had become a moral imperative. All McKinley had to do was give his assent, neatly tapping into the prevailing zeitgeist to further his agenda.

The problem for policymakers is that the zeitgeist can change suddenly and without warning. President Wilson discovered this shortly after World War I, when Americans who had enthusiastically enlisted in his campaign to "make the world safe for democracy" abruptly lost interest and yearned for a return to "normalcy." Accurately gauging the shift in the popular mood, the Senate voted in 1919 not to join the League of Nations, in which Wilson had invested such hopes. The president was left high and dry.

George W. Bush has experienced a similar fate. His presidency began with the Age of American Triumphalism at its zenith. When Bush entered office in 2001, America's status as sole superpower was self-evident and seemingly irrefutable. As the indispensable nation, the United States presided over a unipolar order. The emery board of globalization was sanding away the world's rough edges and gradually remaking it in America's own image. Commentators vied to find the appropriate historical analogy. The consensus: America was the new Rome, only more so.

Bush's response to the Sept. 11 attacks reflected this widespread sense of assurance and entitlement. The Bush doctrine of preventive war, the president's impatient, with-us-or-against-us attitude, his disdain for international opinion and international law, his confidence that American military power, once unleashed, would quickly bring evildoers to justice or justice to evildoers—and above all his conviction that the people of the Islamic world thirsted for freedom, American-style—all of these made explicit precepts that had been germinating during the post-Cold War decade of the 1990s. Bush was merely expressing in a crude vernacular—"Bring 'em on!"—ideas and attitudes to which the majority of Americans already subscribed.

Today those ideas and attitudes have become the equivalent of an oversize SUV: They no longer sell. Not least among Bush's errors in judgment has been his failure to appreciate just how ephemeral the Age of Triumphalism would prove to be.

Having discovered that being the new Rome entails burdens as well as privileges, Americans have opted out. Although Bush's wars continue in Iraq and Afghanistan, Joe the Plumber's interest in liberating the greater Middle East or courting a showdown even with a figure as vile as Kim Jong Il is close to zero. Americans are no longer in the mood to chase after distant evildoers. They care about jobs, affordable energy, decent health care and restoring their 401(k) accounts. Fix what's broken abroad? No, thanks; not until we've fixed what's broken at home. This defines the new normalcy.

The central theme of the presidential election is change, with both John McCain and Barack Obama promising to radically overhaul the way Washington works. In a real sense, however, change already has occurred. Even before the people have voted, they have spoken. The Age of Triumphalism has ended. The Age of Salvaging What's Left is upon us.

Bacevich, professor of history and international relations at Boston University, is the author of The Limits of Power: The End of American Exceptionalism.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Thank you

The CNMI Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 3457 expresses its profound appreciation to the community who took time and effort and participated at the candlelight vigil held for our fallen comrade, SSgt.Julian Manglona. The candlelight vigil was headed by the VFW along Airport Road early Thursday morning, Oct. 23, at the arrival of our fallen hero. Kudos to all who showed their respect and honor to SSgt. Manglona.

Commander Mariana Fajardo
VFW Post 3457

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY
Partly sunny with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 15 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲87° ▼77°	▲88° ▼77°	▲88° ▼77°	▲88° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°

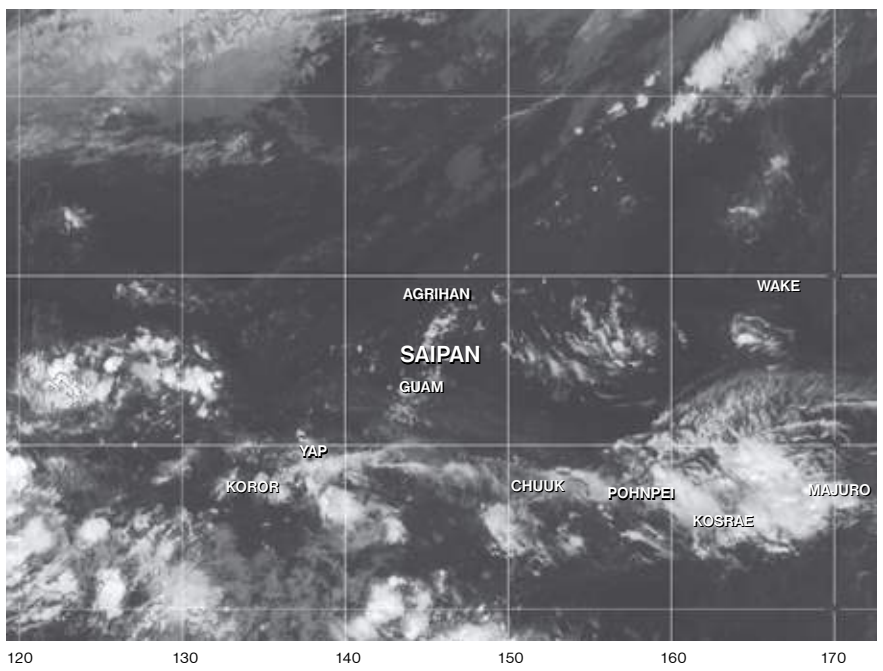
Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Thundershowers	▲84	▼77
Palau	Thunderstorms	▲85	▼78
Yap	Thunderstorms	▲86	▼76
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	▲88	▼78
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	▲86	▼72
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	▲86	▼79
Majuro	Thunderstorms	▲86	▼76

Around The Globe

Auckland	Rain	▲69	▼51
Beijing	Sunny	▲52	▼41
Hong Kong	Rain	▲90	▼79
Honolulu	Cloudy	▲80	▼72
London	Showers	▲50	▼41
Los Angeles	Mostly Cloudy	▲72	▼60
Manila	Thundershowers	▲86	▼75
Melbourne	Partly Sunny	▲75	▼61
Miami	Showers	▲82	▼70
New York	Partly Sunny	▲61	▼41
Osaka	Mostly Sunny	▲66	▼53
Paris	Cloudy	▲49	▼42
Pusan	Mostly Sunny	▲68	▼46
Rome	Showers	▲63	▼51
Salem	Rain	▲60	▼47
San Francisco	Rain	▲65	▼57
Seoul	Partly Sunny	▲59	▼41
Tokyo	Mostly Sunny	▲65	▼54
Washington, DC	Mostly Sunny	▲65	▼45

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00AM, THURSDAY, OCTOBER 31, 2008
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Scattered trade-wind showers are occurring east of the Marianas between 11N and 19N from 147E and 157E. A monsoon trough extends southeastward from 7N130E to eq143E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are occurring near Koror between the equator and 9N from 130E to 140E. Trade-wind convergence is triggering scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms over a large area between 4N and 10N from 140E to 167E. This area includes Chuuk, Pohnpei and Kosrae. An upper-level low is centered west of Wake Island at 20N156E. Divergence north of this circulation is enhancing scattered showers and thunderstorms north of 23N from 165E to 168E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are found between 16N and 25N east of 177E.

Tides

Saipan Harbor

3:21AM Today	Low Tide:	0.2 Feet
10:31AM Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet
3:57PM Today	Low Tide:	1.3 Feet
8:22PM Today	High Tide:	1.7 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:13AM	5:48 PM
Sunday	6:13AM	5:48 PM
Monday	6:14AM	5:47 PM
Tuesday	6:14AM	5:47 PM
Wednesday	6:15AM	5:47 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	8:46AM	8:05PM
Sunday	9:37AM	8:56PM
Monday	10:27AM	9:48PM
Tuesday	11:13AM	10:40PM
Wednesday	11:57AM	11:32PM

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF OCTOBER 1, 2008

DEPARTURES

Saipan-Rota

CO9597	11:50am	12:25pm	1,7

Saipan-Guam

CO9317	4:00am	4:50am	Daily
CO9313	8:30am	9:20am	Daily
CO9597	11:50am	1:20pm	1,7 via Rota
CO9601	12:30pm	1:20pm	Daily
CO9603	3:30pm	4:20pm	Daily
CO9605	6:30pm	7:20pm	Daily
CO9599	9:30pm	10:20pm	Daily

Saipan-Narita

NW 099	5:00am	7:30am	Daily
NW 078	8:55am	2:00pm	Daily
NW 075	4:55pm	7:25pm	Daily

Saipan-Osaka

NW 083	4:20pm	6:55pm	Daily

Saipan-Nagoya

NW 078	8:55am	11:35am	Daily

Saipan-Seoul

OZ 604	2:20am	6:00am	1
OZ 604	2:50am	6:30am	2,3,4,5,6,7
OZ 606	3:30pm	7:00pm	2,4,6,7

Saipan-Busan

OZ 608	3:50am	7:20am	1,5

Saipan-Shanghai

FM 844	3:15am	5:55am	2,6

Rota-Guam

CO 9597	12:50pm	1:20pm	1,7

Guam-Manila

CO 893	5:50pm	9:10pm	3,5 via Koror
CO 933	7:00pm	8:40pm	Daily
PR 111	6:00am	7:45am	1,2,4,6,7

ARRIVALS

Rota-Saipan

CO 9598	3:25am	4:00am	5,6

Guam-Saipan

CO 9316	2:30am	3:20am	Daily
CO9598	2:30am	4:00am	5,6 via Rota
CO9596	7:00am	7:50am	Daily
CO9600	10:20am	11:10am	Daily
CO9602	2:00pm	2:50pm	Daily
CO9604	5:00pm	5:50pm	Daily
CO9606	8:00pm	8:50pm	Daily

Narita-Saipan

NW 076	10:15am	2:50pm	Daily
NW 077	6:25pm	1:30am+1	Daily
NW 100	8:45pm	1:20am+1	Daily

Osaka-Saipan

NW 084	10:30am	3:05pm	Daily

Nagoya-Saipan

NW 077	9:00pm	1:30am+1	Daily

Seoul-Saipan

OZ 605	9:00am	2:20pm	Daily
OZ 603	7:40pm	1:00am+1	7
OZ 603	8:10pm	1:30am+1	1,2,3,4,5,6

Busan-Saipan

OZ 607	9:30pm	2:50am+1	4,7

Shanghai-Saipan

FM 843	7:50pm	2:15am+1	1,5

Guam-Rota

CO 9598	2:30am	3:00am	5,6

Manila-Guam

CO 892	10:10pm	5:30am+1	3,5 via Koror
CO 934	10:55pm	4:30am+1	Daily
PR 110	10:20pm	4:00am+1	1,3,5,6,7

Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CO: Continental; PR: Philippine Airlines; CZ: China Southern; CA: Air China; NW: Northwest; JO: Japan Airlines; OZ: Asiana; MU: China Eastern ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam-Rota			
FRE 100	7:00am	7:30am	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 100	7:50am	8:20am	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 200	9:00am	9:30am	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 200	9:50am	10:15am	Daily
Guam-Rota			
FRE 300	4:00pm	4:30pm	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 300	4:50pm	5:25pm	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 400	6:00pm	6:30pm	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 400	6:45pm	7:15pm	Daily
Saipan-Tinian			
FRE 101	6:45am	6:55am	Daily
FRE 103	7:30am	7:40am	Daily
FRE 105	8:00am	8:10am	Daily
FRE 107	8:40am	8:50am	Daily
FRE 109*	9:10am	9:20am	Daily
FRE 111*	10:45am	10:55am	Daily

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
FRE 113	11:40am	11:50am	Daily
FRE 115	1:00pm	1:10pm	Daily
FRE 117	2:30pm	2:40pm	Daily
FRE 119	4:00pm	4:10pm	Daily
FRE 121	4:40pm	4:50pm	Daily
FRE 123 *	5:40pm	5:50pm	Daily
FRE 125 *	6:00pm	6:10pm	Daily
Tinian-Saipan w/ connecting flights to Rota or Guam**			
FRE 102	7:05am	7:15am	Daily
FRE 104	7:50am	8:00am	Daily
FRE 106**	8:20am	8:30am	Daily
FRE 108**	9:00am	9:10am	Daily
FRE 110	10:00am	10:10am	Daily
FRE 112	11:05am	11:15am	Daily
FRE 114	12:00pm	12:10pm	Daily
FRE 116	1:30pm	1:40pm	Daily
FRE 118	2:50pm	3:00pm	Daily
FRE 120**	4:20pm	4:30pm	Daily
FRE 122**	5:00pm	5:10pm	Daily
FRE 124	6:05pm	6:15pm	Daily
FRE 126	6:20pm	6:30pm	Daily

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

PICTURES

- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS
  Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
  A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
  Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
  Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS
  Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN
  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

HOW TO SUBMIT

- E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com or jayvee_vallejera@saipantribune.com.
- Fax: (670) 235-3740
- Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
- Drop off: 2nd Floor, CIC Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
  To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

POLICY

- The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to accept or reject a contribution for publication; the right to edit all contributions, the date of publication, size of the picture, and page placement; and the right to publish contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats.
- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

NEWS DESK For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

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ADVERTISING For inquiries contact (670) 235-2769. E-mail: sales@saipantribune.com

Schedule of Religious Services

CATHOLIC

Mt. Carmel Cathedral
Sunday Mass: 6am, 9am, 11am and 6pm
Monday-Saturday: 6am
Wednesday: 6am and 6pm

Korean Center
Sunday: 10:30am
Wednesday: 10am
Thursday-Friday: 8pm
Saturday: 3pm and 7:30pm

Kristo Rai Parish
Sunday Mass: 6am, 8am and 9:30am
Monday- Saturday: 6am
Wednesday: 6am and 6pm
Saturday: 6am and 6pm

Nuestra Senora De Soledad Parish
Wednesday Mass: 6pm
First Friday Healing Mass: 6pm
Saturday Mass: 6pm
Sunday Masses: 7:30am & 9am

Saint Jude Parish
Sunday: 6am, 8am, 10am
Wednesday and Thursday: 6pm

San Antonio Parish
Sunday: 6am and 8am
Tuesday and Friday: 6pm

San Francisco de Borja-Rota
Sunday: 6am and 8am
Monday-Saturday: 6am
Wednesday: 6pm

San Isidro-Rota
Sunday: 5am and 10am
Monday-Wednesday: 7pm
Thursday-Saturday: 5am and 7pm

San Jose (Oleai) Parish
Sunday: 6am and 7:30am
Tuesday-Wednesday and Friday-Saturday: 6pm

San Roque Parish
Sunday: 9am
Wednesday: 6pm
Saturday: 10:30am

San Vicente Parish
Sunday: 6am, 9am and 6pm
Monday-Saturday: 6pm

Santa Remedios
Sunday: 7:30am
Tuesday: 6pm
Saturday: 10am-Baptism

Santa Soledad
Sunday: 7:30am

PROTESTANT

Born Again Christian (Upper Room Int'l Ministries), Saipan
Wednesday Prayer and Healing Night: 8-10:30pm
Saturday Tagalog Service: 8-10:30pm
Sunday English Service: 9:30-11am
Sunday School for Children: 10-11am
Sunday Filipino Service: 7-9pm

Calvary Baptist Church, Saipan
Sunday School: 9am
Sunday Morning Worship: 10am
Sunday Evening Worship: 6pm
Wednesday Prayer Service: 7pm

Chinese Christian Church of Saipan
Worship Services: Sunday, 10am and 7:30pm
Bible Study: Tuesday-Friday, 9:25pm

Cornerstone Christian Church, Saipan
Worship/Study Opportunities
Adult Sunday School: 9am
Youth Sunday School: 9am
English Worship Service Sunday: 10am
Sunday Service: 5:30pm
Worship/Fellowship Sunday: 9:30pm
Evangelism/Follow-up: Sunday/Monday: 1:30/7:30pm
Worship Team: Monday/Saturday-9pm;
Cell Groups Tuesday: 7:30pm
Mid-week Service: 7:30pm
Prayer Meeting Wednesday: 7:30pm
Leader's Bible Study Friday: 7:30 pm
Cornerstone School of Ministry Saturday: 7:30pm

Episcopal/Anglican Church on Saipan
St. Paul's Episcopal Church
Worship Service Sunday: Holy Communion 9:00am
Place: Vicarage, Chalan Laulau,
Call 235-0545 for directions

Grace Christian Assembly, Saipan
Worship Service: 9am
GBI Classes: 4-6pm
Prayer Meeting: Monday-Saturday: 6am
Sunday: 7am
Home Cell Bible Study: Wednesday-Friday: 7pm
Youth Service: Friday: 5:30pm

Iglesia Ni Cristo, Saipan
Wednesday: 7:45pm (Tagalog)
Thursday: 5:30am (English); 7:45 pm (English)
Saturday: 5:30am (Tagalog); 7:45pm (Tagalog)
Sunday: 6:45am (English)
Children Worship Service: Sunday, 9am (English)

Immanuel United Methodist Church Koblerville
Sunday Services
9:00 AM
Place of the church-next to Mt. Carmel Cathedral on Chalan Kanoa Dr. • Tel: 322-6158
Pastor JJ Matsumoto

Immanuel Methodist Church (Filipino Congregation)
Sunday: 7:00am-Choir Rehearsal
8:00am-Church Service (Tagalog)
9:15am-Sunday School
Wednesday: 6:30pm, home group
8:00pm-Prayer Meeting
Thursday: 7:30pm-Choir Practice (Church)
Saturday: 8:00pm-Choir Practice (Parsonage)

Jesus is Lord Church, Saipan
English Service: 9-11am, Sunday
Tagalog Service: 6-8pm, Sunday

Korean Presbyterian Church, Saipan
Sunday School: 8:20am
Sunday Adult: 10am
Sunday Adult: 11:30am
Sunday Evening: 7:30pm
Wednesday: 8pm

Life in the Son Christian Fellowship, Saipan
Sunday Worship Service: 10am–12noon
Tuesday: Leadership Institute 7pm-10pm
Wednesday: Corporate prayer 7pm-8pm
Last Friday of the month-prayer: 7pm-11pm
Friday: Youth on Fire: 7pm-9pm
Tel. No. 235-LIFE (5433)

Marianas Baptist Church, Saipan
English Worship Service: 9-10:30am
Evening Worship Service: 6-7pm
Children Sunday School: 9-10:30am
Tagalog Sunday School: 11am-12pm
English Sunday School: 11am-12pm
Korean Worship Service: 11am-12pm
Wednesday Prayer Meeting:
English, 7pm-8pm
Korean: 8:30pm-9:30pm

Missions Connection Ministry
Every Sunday Celebrations:
10am (English), 6pm (Tagalog)
Wednesday Bible Study: 7pm
Youth Impact Friday: 7pm
Saturday Prayer Meeting: 7pm

Northern Marianas Christian Church
Sunday Worship Service 10am Fina Sisu Housing FS#1 (Child care will be provided)
Friday Services @ 7pm Fina Sisu FS#1 for more info pls. contact Ryan 484-2620

Saipan Bible Fellowship Church
Sunday School: 9:30-10am
Divine Worship: 10am-11:30am
Evening Service: 7pm-8:30pm
Wednesday Prayer Meeting: 8pm-9pm

Saipan Christian Church
Sunday: 7:30am-10am
Sunday: 6:30 pm -9pm
Monday: 8 pm -10pm (Prayer Meeting)
Thursday: 8pm-10pm (Cell Groups)

Saipan Church of Christ
Sunday Bible Class: 9am
Sunday Worship: 10am
Sunday Worship English: 6pm
Sunday Worship Tagalog: 7pm
Wednesday Bible Study: 7:30pm

Saipan Community Church
(Sunday Services)
Palau Service: 7:30am-9am
English Service: 10am-11:30am
Chuukese Service: 1pm-2:30pm
Filipino Service: 5:00pm-7:00pm

Seventh-Day Adventist Church, Saipan
(Saturday Church Services)
Sabbath School Program: 9-10am
Lesson Study: 10-10:40am
Divine Service: 11-12pm
Visitation: 3-4pm
Adventist Youth Program: 4:30-5:30pm
Sundown Worship: 6-7pm

First Baptist Church
(Formerly Saipan Baptist Church)
Afetna St., San Antonio

Sunday		
	9am	Sunday school
	10am	Regular worship
	6pm	worship
Wednesday		
	7pm	worship

Everyone is warmly welcome to attend our worship services. Transportation is readily available to anyone who needs a ride to our church. For further information, please call Pastor David M. Mclure at 234-1939/235-7779.

Thy Word Ministries Saipan Faith Center
Phone 234-0209
New Christian Charismatic Church Service located in Chalan Paio, Beach Road in the Sablan building on the 2nd floor above Subway Sandwiches.
Senior Pastors: George & Gail Kamakahi
Asst. Pastors: Eric & Penny Sakaguchi
Service Times
Sunday 10:00am Worship Service
Sunday 7pm Discipleship Classes
Tuesday 10:00am Bible Studies
Tuesday 6:00pm Intercessory Prayer
Tuesday 7:00pm Music Practice
Wednesday 7:00pm Mid-Week Service
Saturday 10:00am Evangelism

Upper Room International Ministries

Sunday	5:30am-6:30am	
Morning prayer		
	7am-9am	English service
	7am-9am	Sunday school
	10am-12noon	English service,
Koblerville		
Wednesday	7pm-9pm	Prayer meeting
Saturday	7pm-9pm	Tagalog service

Venue: Jason Presbyterian Church
Gualo Rai, Saipan

Victory Chapel Christian Fellowship Church
Sunday School: 9:30am
Sunday AM Worship:10:30am
Sunday PM Worship:7:00am
Wed Worship: 7:30pm
Prayer 45 min. Prior to Service Times
Morning Prayer: 6-8am M-S

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

NOVEMBER 01, 1999

Senate divided on Tinian seat vacancy
The Senate remains undecided on what to do with the seat left vacant by former Sen. Herman Manglona who resigned nearly two months ago, despite appeals from some sectors on Tinian to declare a vacancy to allow the immediate holding of special elections in the island municipality. Senators have diverse opinions on the case, which is the first ever in the Commonwealth's history, but it is unlikely they will resolve the differences before the Nov. 1 midterm polls.

Court says NMC immune from suit
Saying officials of a government entity are immune from lawsuits, Federal Judge Alex Munson threw out Friday the sexual harassment case filed by a former Northern Marianas College student against college officials and the US education secretary. In dismissing the civil action filed by Meredith Oden, Munson invoked an earlier US Supreme Court ruling which holds that a school district cannot be held liable in damages for a complaint that does not involve official policy, such as a teacher's sexual harassment of a student.

NOVEMBER 01, 2000

Officer in police brutality case denies accusations
The CNMI government asked the U.S. District Court yesterday to dismiss the claims of the alleged victim of police brutality, Ramon A. Ayuyu, as accused police officer Hilary Tagabuel denied harming him to confess to a theft incident nearly three years ago. District Judge Alex R. Munson denied the motion, but granted its request to drop the Department of Public Safety and four John Doe's who are unnamed police officers as defendants to the $1 million damage suit.

After PCB, Tanapag resident now want dioxin probed
The Tanapag Action Group has asked the Division of Environmental Quality to assess dioxin soil contamination in the village to determine the extent of health problems in has caused in the village. In a letter to DEQ Director Ignacio V. Cabrera, Tanapag Action Group leader Juan I. Tenorio requested the environment agency to release the 1991 soil sampling results which revealed extensive dioxin contamination in soil.

NOVEMBER 01, 2001

More funds vs. bioterrorism eyed
As the nation braces for bioterrorism, the CNMI is expected to receive additional federal grants from the office of President Bush. No less than the Commonwealth's premiere anti-terrorism agency—the Emergency Management Office -- made the anticipation, after coming out from a meeting with Federal Emergency Management Agency representatives yesterday afternoon.

Help is just around the corner
Juan went home to a candle-lit house with the sight of his wife and kids waiting at the dinner table. Their power was cut off that afternoon. Soon after dinner, he watched his kids do their homework under the flickering light of a candle. He promised himself that never will he allow his children to study in the dark again.

NOVEMBER 01, 2002

Cremation remains far-fetched
Local residents are not yet sold to the idea of cremating their dead, local funeral service experts said. "Since I started this kind of business in 1986, I never had a local cremated," said Frank Cabrera of Cabrera's Funeral Homes in an interview.

Fix sought for healthcare woes
House Rep. Benjamin B. Seman requested to meet with Gov. Juan N. Babauta yesterday to propose that the Marianas Liaison Office in Honolulu temporarily bear the medical treatment costs on behalf of Group Health and Life Insurance patients who are in danger of being denied medication reportedly starting today. According to Seman, chairman of the House Health and Welfare Committee, several GHLI members seeking treatment in Hawaii have only been given medication to last them until today, Friday, due to the patients' failure to pay upfront the costs of the treatment.

Business

Beaten down, American consumers burrow deeper

WASHINGTON (AP)—Beaten down and watching their wealth shrink, Americans are burrowing ever deeper—cutting back on spending and spelling more trouble for the sinking economy.

One of the biggest problems saddling the country is damage from the housing market's collapse. Mounting foreclosures, falling home prices and soured mortgage investments are taking their toll on both individuals and businesses alike.

Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke, who is scheduled to speak via satellite Friday at a Berkeley, Calif., conference on the mortgage meltdown, is likely to call on government officials and lawmakers to keep working on ways to provide more relief.

The Bush administration is considering a plan that would help around 3 million struggling homeowners avoid foreclosure by having the government guarantee billions of dollars worth of distressed mortgages. The plan also could include loan modifications that would lower interest rates for a five-year period.

Fallout from the housing meltdown has spurred the worst global credit and financial crisis in more than a half century. To combat the problems, the government has taken a flurry of bold steps. The Treasury Department is pouring $250 billion into banks in return for partial ownership and the Fed this week started buying mounds of debt from companies. It also slashed interest rates to 1 percent, a level seen only once before in the last half century.

A new batch of economic reports out Friday is likely to offer fresh confirmation of the stresses weighing on American consumers. Income growth is expected to barely budge in September, inching up just 0.1 percent, according to economists' estimates. Consumers probably trimmed their spending during the month by 0.3 percent, economists predict.

And, given the weak jobs market, employers aren't expected to be overly generous with compensation to their employees. Workers' wages and benefit costs are expected to rise 0.7 percent during the third quarter, economists are forecasting. If that happens, it would mark the same size increase from the previous quarter.

All in all, the economy as a whole contracted at a 0.3 percent pace in the July-to-September quarter, reflecting a sharp pull-back by consumers. They ratcheted back spending by the largest amount in nearly three decades, the government reported Thursday. Consumers' disposable income took its biggest drop on records dating back to 1947. Retailers are bracing for a grim holiday buying season.

Delta begins integration with Northwest

MINNEAPOLIS (AP)—One day after his airline swallowed Northwest Airlines, Delta executive Ed Bastian was in town with a polar bear tie and a smile in a bid to reassure travelers that little would change.

Hubs? They all stay. Flights? Maybe fewer seats, but no outright cuts. Frequent flier miles? You'll keep them all.

Still, Bastian and the rest of the executives who will stir the two airlines together have plenty to do.

"It's probably going to take us two years before we can really operate as a single carrier," Bastian, who is Delta Air Lines Inc.'s chief financial officer, said Thursday. Bastian is also now the chief executive of Northwest, which became a subsidiary of Delta when their tie-up closed on Wednesday.

Although dozens of teams with members from both companies have been working together for months toward the integration, several items still have not been decided yet, Bastian said from behind a "Delta" podium above a ticketing area dominated by Northwest counters. That includes whether Delta will continue to allow a single checked bag for free (Northwest charges a fee), and which planes will go on which routes.

Bastian did not rule out the possibility that Delta would add a checked-bag fee. In any case, both airlines will have the same fee structure soon, he said.

He said Delta would arrange its fleet and schedule in the spring. Only one airplane, the 757, is common to both carriers.

Airline mergers have a checkered history. AMR Corp.'s American closed on a buyout of TWA months before the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks turned the industry upside-down. And US Airways Group Inc. is still struggling with its integration with America West.

"In the past it's been like trying to integrate oil and water," said Mo Garfinkle, who runs airline consulting firm GCW Consulting.

Delta and Northwest will have to integrate different corporate cultures, different software for ticketing and schedules, different fleets, different unions (most of Delta's workers are not unionized) - and it all has to be done without missing a beat in a 24-7 operation that includes hubs from Tokyo to Amsterdam.

Nation

Obama approaches lawmaker about White House post

AMERICA VOTES

WASHINGTON (AP)—Barack Obama's campaign has approached Illinois Rep. Rahm Emanuel about possibly serving as White House chief of staff, officials said Thursday as the marathon presidential race entered its final, frenzied stretch with a Democratic tilt.

The disclosure came as Republican John McCain, in need of a comeback, focused on pocketbook issues amid fresh signs of a recession. "Ohio is hurting now, people in Ohio are having trouble staying in their homes, keeping their jobs," he said as he set out on a two-day bus tour of the state.

"We have got to get this economy out of the ditch."

Obama, bidding to become the first black president, also pointed to the government's report that the economy had declined in the third quarter. He told a large crowd in Florida that McCain has been perched "right next to George Bush" for eight years, and consumers are paying a steep price for their partnership.

The Democrats who described the Obama campaign's approach to Emanuel spoke on condition of anonymity, saying they were not authorized to be quoted by name. An aide to the congressman, Sarah Feinberg, said in an e-mail that he "has not been contacted to take a job in an administration that does not yet exist. Everyone is focused on Election Day, as they should be."

Asked about Emanuel after touching down in Colombia, Mo., on Thursday night, Obama said only: "I'm trying to win an election." Then, referring to campaign manager David Plouffe, he said: "Plouffe is my chief of staff."

Obama campaign spokesman Bill Burton earlier had said: "There's no news because there's no job to offer."

AP

In this June 6, 2008,, file photo Rep. Rahm Emanuel, D-Ill., left, talks with Democratic presidential candidate Sen. Barack Obama D-Ill., at a Chicago 2016 Olympic rally at Daley Center Plaza in Chicago.

Emanuel is a veteran of President Clinton's White House, and has made a rapid ascent of the House leadership ladder since his election to Congress. He was chairman of the Democratic campaign committee two years ago when the party won a majority for the first time in more than a decade, and he cemented his reputation as a prodigious fundraiser and strong-willed political strategist.

Both Obama and McCain have authorized their staffs to begin transition operations in recent weeks - although only one of them will be able to make use of the results. As far as is known, no job offers have been made by either man.

Even so, Republicans seized on the disclosure. "Emanuel is among the most vitriolic and partisan people in American politics," said Alex Conant, a Republican National Committee spokesman. "Reports that Obama wants him to be White House chief of staff undercut any claims to unity and bipartisanship, and should alarm every voter."

As the race neared an end, opinion polls, early voting statistics and even the candidates' campaign schedules all make it look like the race is Obama's to lose.

The Democrat campaigned exclusively in traditionally Republican states during the day, flying from Florida to Virginia to Missouri, in hopes of winning a sizable victory on Tuesday. Polls consistently show him ahead nationally as well as in a half-dozen states that sided with Bush in 2004, and tied in three more.

McCain's bus tour of Ohio underscored his political predicament. Bush won the state twice, it has voted for the winner in every presidential election for 20 years, and public and private surveys all give Obama the advantage.

Both campaigns invested heavily in turning out early voters.

'Obama ad short on specifics'

ERIE, Pa. (AP)—Republican vice presidential candidate Sarah Palin said Thursday that Democrat Barack Obama offered few national security specifics in the infomercial he broadcast the night before, accusing him of trying to "soften the focus" in the campaign's final days.

"In times of economic worry and hardship—crisis that we're in right now—someone is attempting to put those concerns aside on Election Day—national security issues," Palin told about 6,000 people at a convention center rally.

The Alaska governor said Obama had "wrapped his closing message in a warm and fuzzy scripted infomercial intended to soften the focus in these closing days. He's hoping that your mind won't wander to the real challenges of national security, challenges that he isn't capable of meeting."

She said Republican presidential candidate John McCain is ready for that challenge.

Obama spent about $4 million on a half-hour campaign commercial broadcast Wednesday night on several network and national cable stations.

Palin also said congressional Democrats want sharp cuts in military spending, but that now is not the time to do that.

"We're fighting two wars ... They think it's the perfect time to radically reduce defense spending. What are they thinking?" Palin said.

Palin received a smattering of boos when she said she was glad to be in the home state of the World Series-champion Philadelphia Phillies. Northwestern Pennsylvania baseball fans favor the Cleveland Indians or Pittsburgh Pirates.

But a Phillies reference later in Williamsport in central Pennsylvania got a better reception. Palin spoke at Bowman Field, home of the Phillies' minor-league affiliate, the Williamsport Crosscutters.

Searchers find large bones near the Fossett crash site

MADERA, Calif. (AP)—Searchers have found what appear to be two large human bones near the crash site of Steve Fossett's plane in California's Sierra Nevada, along with the adventurer's tennis shoes and driver's license, authorities said Thursday.

Madera County Sheriff John Anderson said at a news conference that the bones were found Wednesday about a half-mile east of the crash site. Investigators have sent them to a Department of Justice testing lab and should know in about a week whether they are Fossett's.

Anderson said searchers also found Fossett's tennis shoes, his Illinois driver's license and credit cards. The shoes and driver's license had animal bite marks on them.

"This reinforces our theory that animals dragged him away," Anderson said.

Previous bone fragments discovered near the wreckage were either found to be not human or too small for DNA tests. Investigators have completed their work on the ground and do not plan to resume search efforts, Anderson said.

Fossett's widow, Peggy, said in a statement Thursday that the discovery of bones was "another step in the process of completing the investigation into the tragic accident that took Steve's life."

Fossett vanished in September 2007 after taking off from a Nevada ranch owned by hotel magnate Barron Hilton during what was supposed to be a short pleasure flight.

His disappearance spurred a huge search that covered 20,000 square miles, cost millions of dollars and included the use of infrared technology.

For a while, many of Fossett's friends held out hope he survived, given his many close scrapes with death over the years. But a judge declared him legally dead in February, and his plane wreckage was found this month after a hiker came across his pilot identification cards amid a pile of weathered $100 bills west of Mammoth Lakes in the eastern Sierra.

Air Force: Nuke missile silo fire undetected

DENVER (AP)—A fire caused $1 million worth of damage at an unmanned underground nuclear launch site last spring, but the Air Force didn't find out about it until five days later, an Air Force official said Thursday.

The May 23 fire burned itself out after an hour or two, and multiple safety systems prevented any threat of an accidental launch of the Minuteman III missile, Maj. Laurie Arellano said. She said she was not allowed to say whether the missile was armed with a nuclear warhead at the time of the fire.

Arellano said the Air Force didn't know a fire had occurred until May 28, when a repair crew went to the launch site—about 40 miles east of Cheyenne, Wyo., and 100 miles northeast of Denver—because a trouble signal indicated a wiring problem.

She said the flames never entered the launch tube where the missile stood and there was no danger of a radiation release.

The fire, blamed on a faulty battery charger, burned a box of shotgun shells, a shotgun and a shotgun case that were kept in the room, Arellano said. A shotgun is a standard security weapon at missile silos. Arellano said the battery chargers at all U.S. missile launch site have been replaced.

She said the incident wasn't reported sooner because of the complexity of the investigation.

The damage from the fire was estimated at $1 million, including the cost of replacing damaged equipment and cleanup.

An Air Force report of the incident released Thursday found flaws in the technical orders for assembling battery charger parts, inspection procedures and modifications of the launch complex ventilation system. It was also critical of the presence of flammable materials.

Cheyenne Mayor Jack Spiker, who said he learned of the incident when contacted by a reporter Thursday, said the fire doesn't undermine his confidence in the safety of the missile operations.

"It's rare that they have an accident, and the accidents have never really, that I know of, amounted to much because of the safety devices that are built into the system," he said.

ACROSS THE NATION

Police: Husband strangled missing NY teacher

MINEOLA, N.Y. (AP)—It seemed like one of those classic suburban nightmares: A teacher went to school on Monday morning, sent a loving text message to her husband, then vanished on the side of the road. Her husband became distraught, making tearful pleas for her safe return. But police said Thursday that those pleas were fake. They said William Walsh confessed to strangling his wife during a fight over his alleged infidelity. He then dumped her body on an embankment and staged an elaborate hoax to make it look as if she had been a victim of random roadside violence. Homicide detectives believe the would-be stockbroker killed 29-year-old Leah Walsh on Sunday after he returned from a trip to Atlantic City, N.J. Lt. John Azzata, commander of the Nassau County homicide squad, said that the couple got in a fight, and that he choked her to death as the dispute escalated. Azzata described the killing as "impulsive. ... It was a domestic situation gone extremely bad." William Walsh, 29, was ordered held without bail after pleading not guilty to second-degree murder. Despite a confession, Walsh's attorney insisted that police had made a "rush to judgment" and that his client was innocent.

US jury convicts son of ex-Liberian president

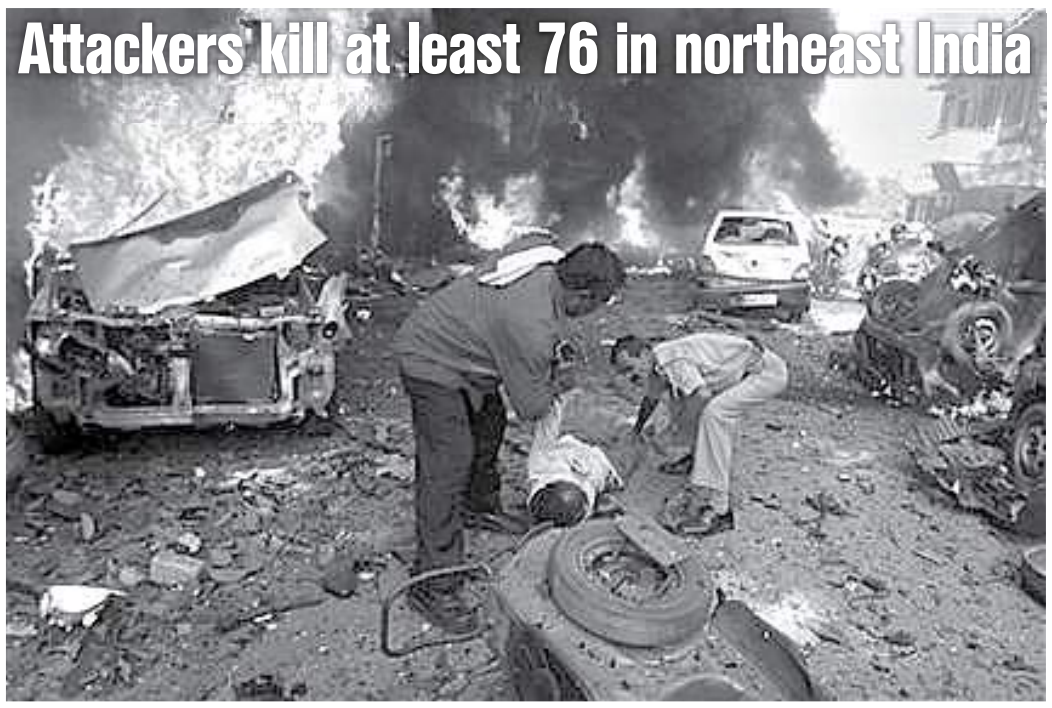
MIAMI (AP)—A federal jury on Thursday convicted the son of former Liberian President Charles Taylor in the first case brought under a 1994 U.S. law allowing prosecution for torture and atrocities committed overseas. Charles McArthur Emmanuel, also known as Charles "Chuckie" Taylor Jr., was convicted of torture, firearms and conspiracy charges on the second day of jury deliberations. He faces life in prison, with sentencing set for Jan. 9. Prosecutors said the 31-year-old Emmanuel was involved in killings and torture as head of an elite antiterrorist unit in his father's government also known as the "Demon Forces." From 1999 to 2002, Emmanuel's job was to use his paramilitary soldiers to silence opposition to Taylor and train soldiers for conflict in neighboring African countries, according to trial testimony. Miami U.S. Attorney R. Alexander Acosta said the case, investigated by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement and FBI agents who traveled the globe finding victims and witnesses, will serve as a model for future prosecutors involving foreign torture allegations.

Man sets self aflame at Seattle college and dies

SEATTLE (AP)—A 61-year-old former University of Washington staff member doused himself with gasoline and set himself ablaze Thursday in the midst of a crowded campus plaza. He died a short time later. The man, who authorities did not immediately identify, died shortly after he was brought to Harborview Medical Center, hospital spokeswoman Susan Gregg-Hanson said. "We do not know why he did it," said UW Assistant Police Chief Ralph Robinson, adding the man suffered second- and third-degree burns. "That's a big mystery." The man had been part of the university's support staff, Robinson said. He said he didn't know what department the man worked in, or when or why he left. Witnesses in Red Square, a large brick plaza at the center of the Seattle campus, reported seeing "this big flame and a ball of fire" around 1 p.m. Thursday, Robinson said.

Asia

Attackers' kill at least 76 in northeast India



AP

A seriously wounded man is removed from near a blast site in Gauhati, India, Thursday, Oct. 30, 2008.

GAUHATI, India (AP)—Bombs planted in cars and rickshaws ripped through crowded markets in a coordinated attack Thursday in India's volatile northeast, killing at least 76 people and wounding more than 300.

The scale and planning behind the 13 blasts surprised authorities, who struggled to determine who was behind the attacks - among the worst in a region plagued by separatism, ethnic violence and Islamic militants.

The largest explosion took place near the office of Assam state's top government official, leaving bodies and charred, mangled cars and motorcycles strewn across the road.

Bystanders dragged the wounded and dead to cars that took them to hospitals. Police officers covered charred bodies with white sheets in the street.

Later, dozens of people angry over the blasts took to the streets of the state capital, Gauhati, stoning vehicles and torching at least two fire engines. Police imposed a curfew on the city and closed roads leading in and out of the area.

Seventy-six people were killed, with more than a dozen dying from their injuries overnight Thursday, said Subhash Das, a senior official in the state's Home Ministry, on Friday. Some 300 people were wounded by the bombs that went off before noon, he said.

Officials blamed the largest separatist group, the United Liberation Front of Asom, for the blasts. "The needle of suspicion is on ULFA," said Assam government spokesman Himanta Biswa Sharma.

Kids in Pakistan quake zone beg for food

WAM, Pakistan (AP)—Children begged for food from trucks passing through Pakistan's quake zone Thursday as the death toll rose to 215 and survivors prepared for another frigid night camped out amid wrecked mountain villages.

Provincial government minister Zamrak Khan said 215 people died and hospitals were still treating dozens of people who were seriously injured in the 6.4-magnitude quake that struck before dawn Wednesday.

Soldiers and foreign aid groups distributed blankets, warm clothes and tents, in Baluchistan province, near the Afghan border, but many among the estimated 15,000 homeless complained of receiving little help.

"The earthquake destroyed our houses, but now the government's slow response is killing us," said Moosa Kaleem, sitting with his wife and four children in the town of Ziarat. "We cannot spend another night in this chilling weather, especially the kids

A poorly managed aid effort in Baluchistan could add to anti-government sentiment as the country's new leaders battle violence by Islamist extremists and try to fix mounting economic problems.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Taliban storm Afghan culture ministry, kill 5

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP)—Taliban fighters stormed the Ministry of Culture in the heart of Kabul Thursday, killing five people in an attack the president said aimed at derailing the government's new effort to draw militants into a peace process and end a seven-year insurgency The fighters shot their way inside the building, where one of the militants blew himself up, a police guard wounded in the blast said. The Taliban claimed responsibility for the attack and gave a similar account. "Our enemies are trying to undermine the recent efforts by the government for a peaceful solution to end the violence," U.S.-backed President Hamid Karzai said in a terse statement. The attack came three days after senior Afghan and Pakistani officials decided at a meeting held in Pakistan's capital, Islamabad, to reach out to the Taliban militants to propose talks on ending the insurgency. The meeting was part of a process initiated by President Bush and his Afghan and Pakistani counterparts in 2006.

Indonesian lawmakers pass anti-porn bill

JAKARTA, Indonesia (AP)—Indonesia's parliament passed a bill banning pornography Thursday, ignoring opposition from lawmakers and rights groups who worry it will be used to justify attacks on artistic, religious and cultural freedom. More than 100 legislators stormed out ahead of the vote saying that—while the bill's final version removed contentious clauses regulating dress and social behavior—it went against the country's tradition of diversity. Ninety percent of Indonesia's 235 million citizens are Muslim, most practicing a moderate form of the faith. But many of its islands have large Christian and Hindu populations and some women in tribal regions, like Papua, still go topless. A small group of hard-line Islamist parties argued that globalization was chipping away at the country's moral fiber and dusted off an anti-pornography bill originally drafted in 1999. They were forced to revise it several times, dropping a ban on bikinis at tourist resorts, for instance. The version that eventually passed Thursday focusses instead on the dissemination of material that contains pornographic images, gestures or even conversations. Violators can be sentenced to up to 12 years in prison and fined up to $750,000.

World

Reports: Italy warned Libya of 1986 US strike

ROME (AP)—The Italian government gave Libya early warning of the 1986 U.S. airstrikes launched in response to a deadly attack on a disco in Germany, Libyan and Italian officials said Thursday.

Libya's Foreign Minister Abdel-Rahman Shalgam was quoted by the ANSA and Apcom news agencies as saying the Italians warned him of the raids launched from a NATO base on Italian soil because they were opposed to the action. Shalgam said the Italians informed him personally since, at the time, he was Libya's ambassador in Rome.

"I don't think I am revealing a secret if I announce that Italy informed us a day before—April 14, 1986—that there would be an American aggression against Libya," the agencies quoted Shalgam as saying.

Shalgam was quoted as saying that the United States launched a strike from a NATO base on Lampedusa, a tiny Sicilian island close to the African coast, "against the will of the Italian government."

The agencies also quoted veteran politician Giulio Andreotti, who in 1986 was Italy's foreign minister, as saying that the attack was "a mistake" and confirming that the Socialist-led government of Bettino Craxi warned Libya.

It was not immediately clear whether Libya acted on the information.

The two politicians were speaking on the sidelines of conference in Rome.

Former U.S. President Ronald Reagan ordered airstrikes on Tripoli and Benghazi after the disco attacks that killed three, including two U.S. servicemen. The Libyans say the retaliatory attacks killed 41 people, including Libyan leader Moammar Gadhafi's adopted daughter, and injured 226 others.

Vatican issues screening guidelines for priests

VATICAN CITY (AP)—The Vatican issued new psychological screening guidelines for seminarians Thursday—the latest effort by the Roman Catholic Church to be more selective about its priesthood candidates following a series of sex abuse scandals.

The church said it issued the new guidelines to help church leaders weed out candidates with "psychopathic disturbances." The scandals have rocked the church in recent years, triggering lawsuits that have cost hundreds of millions of dollars in settlements.

"(The guidelines) became ever more urgent because of the sexual scandals," Monsignor Jean-Louis Brugues told reporters. He stressed, however, that psychological testing was used in some seminaries as far back as the 1960s—or at least a decade before the sexual abuse scandals exploded in public.

"In all too many cases, psychological defects, sometimes of a pathological kind, reveal themselves only after ordination to the priesthood," the guidelines said. "Detecting defects earlier would help avoid many tragic experiences."

The guidelines said problems like "confused or not yet well-defined" sexual identities need to be addressed.

The Survivors Network of Those Abused by Priests said the Vatican needs to go beyond screening seminarians to end what the group calls the church's "virtually unchanged culture of secrecy and unchecked power in the hierarchy" that left dangerous priests in parishes.

Bomb at university in Spain's Pamplona wounds 17

MADRID, Spain (AP)—A powerful car bomb exploded Thursday at a university in the northern Spanish city of Pamplona, wounding 17 people and setting a building on fire in an attack blamed on Basque separatists.

There was no claim of responsibility, but officials pointed the finger at the militant Basque group ETA. They said the blast could have caused massive bloodshed because it went off without warning at a busy area of the campus.

"ETA has once again displayed its vileness," said Jose Antonio Alonso, spokesman in Parliament for Prime Minister Jose Luis Rodriguez Zapapatero's Socialist party.

The bomb went off in a parking lot at the University of Navarra, shattering windows and setting vehicles on fire, said Amaya Zaratiegui, spokeswoman for the university's clinic. Navarra is the region of which Pamplona is the capital.

Aparicio Caicedo, a 29-year-old Ecuadorean doctoral student, said he was studying in a library when the bomb went off.

"Suddenly the whole building shook and there was a huge column of smoke. It was tremendous, a huge explosion," Caicedo told The Associated Press by phone.

Television footage showed an unidentified building on fire at the ground-floor level and spewing thick black smoke.

WORLD BRIEFS

Congo rebel leader wants direct talks with govt

GOMA, Congo (AP)—With a cease-fire appearing to halt most fighting, a rebel leader said Thursday he wanted direct talks with the Congo government. Envoys from the U.S. and U.N. were sent in to help set up negotiations. Sporadic gunfire could still be heard Thursday night in Goma, the provincial capital of eastern Congo, but the city was calm for much of the day. That was in sharp contrast to Wednesday, when tens of thousands of residents, refugees and government soldiers fled in a chaotic torrent ahead of advancing rebels. When the sun went down, drunk soldiers pillaged and raped in Goma, killing at least nine people in their homes, according to U.N. Radio Okapi. "We want peace for people in the region," rebel leader Laurent Nkunda told The Associated Press by telephone after halting his advance on Goma and calling a unilateral cease-fire. Nkunda also wanted to discuss his objections to a $9 billion-dollar deal that gives China access to vast mineral riches in exchange for a railway and highway.

Intel says Iran plans secret nuclear experiments

VIENNA, Austria (AP)—Iran has recently tested ways of recovering highly enriched uranium from waste reactor fuel in a covert bid to expand its nuclear program, according to an intelligence assessment made available to The Associated Press. The intelligence, provided by a member of the 145-nation International Atomic Energy Agency, also says a report will soon be submitted to the Iranian leadership for a decision on whether to go ahead with the project. The alleged tests loosely replicate Saddam Hussein's attempts to build the bomb nearly two decades ago. But experts question the conclusion by those providing the intelligence that Tehran, too, is trying to reprocess the fuel to make a nuclear weapon. They note that the spent fuel at issue as the source of the enriched uranium is not enough to yield the approximately 30 kilograms (65 pounds) of weapons-grade material needed for a bomb. Still, they say that the alleged experiment appears plausible—if not as a fast track to weapons capability then as a step that could move it further along that path.

Maharlika

PINOY LIFE IN THE MARIANAS

Saturday, November 1, 2008

RP-hosted global forum a success—UN

Greece to host next year's conference

By VERONICA UY
INQUIRER.NET

MANILA, Philippines—The Second Global Forum on Migration and Development was successful as many of the 163 participating governments changed their attitudes toward migration and migrants, the United Nations said Thursday shortly after the closing of the conference.

At the same time, Greece accepted the hosting of next year's conference in Athens, with the theme, "Integrating Migration Policies in Development Strategies for the Benefit of All and Especially Countries of Origin." In line with this, the Ayala Foundation also turned over the torch for the organization of the civil society days to the Alexandros Onassis Foundation.

Athanassios Nakos, Greece's deputy interior minister, said the Athens Forum will ensure thematic continuity while tackling new issues related to migration and development.

"As future chair of the Global Forum, we would like to focus our efforts on the fact that international migration cannot be a substitute to development. International migration needs to be an integral part of the development agenda, as well as part of national, regional, and international development strategies," he said.

AP

Philippine President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo, left, walks with UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, right, during arrival honors at the Malacanang Presidential palace in suburban Manila, Philippines on Wednesday Oct. 29, 2008. Ban, who is in the country to address the Global Forum on Migration and Development, said protecting the rights and livelihoods of millions of migrant workers during the global slowdown will benefit economies, while also warning that some will lose jobs.

Peter Sutherland, Special Representative of the United Nations Secretary General on Migration and Development, congratulated the Philippines for the most "superbly" organized conference he has attended. He said the forum was conducted without much "finger-pointing" that usually characterizes such events, but instead with "respectful conversations without rancor."

Sutherland also said that since the first conference in Brussels last year, destination governments have become more receptive of the ideas on migration and development, including recognition of migrants' rights.

"[There have been] huge changes in a lot of countries...A number of countries have set up intergovernmental institutions [on migration issues] that reflect more cohesion and cooperation instead of just leaving it to the department of justice for instance. [They have included] health and social welfare [concerns in the equation], to deal more constructively with migrants," he said.

"There is substantial change in that," he added.

Sutherland said countries which previously did not want to attend the forum are now more open to discourses on migration and development.

Forum chairman Esteban Conejos, who is also foreign affairs undersecretary, said the forum has achieved the goals that he has personally set for it—attendance, willingness to dialogue, and substantial agenda.

"Together with the participants from the civil society days, we had some 1,100 attendees. It is not easy to get these people from Africa, Europe, and the Americas to get to Manila. And although we had a lot of disagreements, everyone was willing to find a common solution. And finally, our agenda was powerful and strong, and suited the Philippine interest," he said.

RELATED NEWS

'Millions of migrant workers at risk from financial crisis' **PAGE 14**

Market closes 4.62 percent up

MANILA, Philippines (AFP)—Share prices closed 4.6 percent higher Friday as investors hunted for bargains, dealers said.

The composite index surged 86.16 points to close at 1,951.09.

The main index has risen 14.5 percent in the past three days after touching a four-year low Tuesday.

A total of 1.45 billion shares worth P3.87 billion ($79.3 million) changed hands.

Gainers led losers, 99 to 16, while 32 issues closed unchanged.

At noon the peso was trading at 48.88 to the dollar. By 4pm, it was trading at Php48.95.

"Investors are slowly regaining their confidence, thanks to recent rate cuts by the Federal Reserve and other global central banks," DBP Daiwa Securities research head Ron Rodrigo told Dow Jones Newswires.

Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. was the most actively traded stock, accounting for 23 percent of total turnover. It ended 2.8 percent higher at P1,995.00.

Bank of the Philippine Islands gained 6.7 percent to P40.00, while rival Metropolitan Bank Trust Co. rose 7.4 percent to P25.50.

San Miguel Corp. A shares rose 1.05 percent to P48.00 while the B shares added 4.2 percent at P50.00.

'RP nurses still want to work in US'

By VERONICA UY
INQUIRER.NET

MANILA, Philippines—Filipino nurses still want to work in the United States, as the number that took the US licensure test remain at 15,079 for the first nine months of 2008, an official of a labor group said Thursday.

In an e-mailed statement to media, former Senator Ernesto Herrera, Trade Union Congress of the Philippines secretary general, said the number of Filipino nurses who have so far taken the National Council Licensure Examination (NCLEX) was practically the same for the same period last year, 15,083.

He said these figures showed that Filipino nurses still have their sights set on the US.

Citing NCLEX statistics, Herrera said that the Philippines has remainedAmerica's number one source of foreign nurses. In the nine-month period, he said the other nationalities who took the exam were: 2,474 Indians; 1,306 South Koreans; 676 Cubans; and 520 Canadians.

In 2007, a record total of 21,499 Filipinos took the NCLEX for the first time (excluding repeaters). This was up 6,328 or 42 percent compared to the 15,171 Filipinos that took the NCLEX for the first time in 2006.

At the same time, the former head of the Senate committee on labor pushed for the increase in the entry-level monthly basic pay of government staff nurses to P16,093, as mandated by the Philippine Nursing Act of 2002, lamenting that many government staff nurses are still receiving only P8,000 a month.

? LABOR FRONT

Labor administrative hearing officer's powers

By FERDIE PONCE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Q: What are the main powers of a Labor administrative hearing officer?

A: A Labor administrative hearing officer is authorized to award unpaid wages or overtime compensation, and amounts unlawfully required by an employer to be paid by an alien worker. According to the new Alien Labor Rules and Regulations, the hearing officer is also authorized to award damages for unlawful termination of an approved employment contract, or damages, when appropriate, for conduct of the employer that is in violation of Commonwealth or federal law.

The Regulations state that the hearing officer can assess liquidated damages of up to six months wages if actual damages are uncertain or cannot be ascertained under a satisfactory or known rule in cases in which the employer's conduct is found to have been retaliatory.

■ ■ ■

Q: Does a Labor administrative hearing officer have the authority to cancel an alien worker's entry permit?

A: Yes. The Regulations state that the Labor administrative hearing officer can cancel or modify an entry permit or an approved employment contract or require an employer thereafter to pay foreign national workers only by check or direct deposit in a U.S. bank payable in U.S. currency (no cash payments) in cases where payment records have been negligently or inappropriately kept.

■ ■ ■

Q: Does a Labor administrative hearing officer have the authority to award attorney's fees?

A: Yes. The Regulations state that the hearing officer can award attorney's fees when appropriate in addition to any other remedy; provided, however, that attorney's fees shall not be recoverable against the CNMI. The hearing officer can also order temporary or permanent debarment of an employer or order an employer to attend one or more orientation sessions for education as to rights and responsibilities under CNMI law.

The hearing officer can disqualify an alien worker, temporarily or permanently, from employment in the CNMI. He or she can also levy a fine not to exceed $2,000 for each violation of any provision of Public Law 15-108 or the new reformed Labor law.

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Kidnapped aid worker freed by Abu Sayyaf

By JULIE ALIPALA
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

ZAMBOANGA CITY—Abu Sayyaf kidnappers released before dawn Thursday one of two abducted humanitarian workers after ransom was paid, ending her 45-day ordeal on the island-province of Basilan.

Basilan Vice Gov. Al Rasheed Sakalahul, head of the provincial crisis management committee, told the Philippine Daily Inquirer that Esperancita "Espie" Hupida had been freed but did not give details on the ransom.

"Thank God, Espie is here. Together with her husband, we fetched her at Tipo-Tipo," Sakalahul said in a text message at 3 a.m.

He said the group was on its way to Isabela City after taking Hupida from her kidnappers about an hour earlier. Espie's husband Nestor said she was taken from Limbo Paz in Tipo-Tipo Central.

A program director of the local NGO Nagdilaab Foundation, Hupida was kidnapped along with Merlie Mendoza and four other aid workers on Sept. 15 while on a mercy mission in Basilan. The four others managed to escape but Mendoza's situation was not immediately known.

Hupida, 42, was later brought on a military boat to Zamboanga City, where a Mass was celebrated for her freedom.

"With God's providence I survived," a pale and haggard-looking Hupida told reporters.

Hupida said she lived in constant fear during her ordeal, with the bandits at one time threatening to cut off her fingers if her family refused to pay a ransom of P2 million.

AP

Released Filipino aid worker Esperancita Hupida grimaces as medical staff assist her upon arrival Thursday, Oct. 30, 2008 in Zamboanga city in southern Philippines following 45 days in captivity by Abu Sayyaf militants in nearby Basilan island.

Police said Hupida was freed after negotiations between local officials and the Abu Sayyaf. She said Mendoza was still alive, but was kept away from her.

"We don't know whether ransom was paid or not, but we are monitoring the situation and working closely with the provincial crisis management committee," said Chief Supt. Bensali Jabarani, police commander of the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao.

Board and lodging fee

"I am very happy, we are all very happy with Espie's release and we are hoping their case is the last kidnapping in Basilan," Nestor said.

"We gave ransom if you want to call it that way, but it's really difficult to raise that amount and several important things in the family have been sacrificed so we could raise the money," he said.

While acknowledging the help of friends and colleagues, he said the family had to mortgage their house so the ransom payment could be completed.

But Jabarani maintained that no ransom was paid.

"The loan for the house is not enough to raise ransom, probably, it was board and lodging (fee)," he said.

Like Sakalahul, Nestor did not say how much was paid for his wife's freedom.

Fr. Angel Calvo of the Nagdilaab Foundation said the amount was immaterial and what was important was that Hupida had been freed.

"I feel liberated, it's a liberating experience," Hupida said when contacted by the Inquirer later Thursday.

PHILIPPINE BRIEFS

PAL plane lands safely after pilot suffers mild stroke

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Philippine Airlines says one of its pilots suffered a mild stroke just minutes before reaching his destination but was able to hand over control of the aircraft to his co-pilot who landed it safely. Airline Vice President Rolando Estabillo says the incident Wednesday happened on a flight to central Bacolod city. The Airbus A320 was carrying 79 passengers. He says pilot Alex Carvajal complained of pain in his nape and asked co-pilot Donato Cabigo to take over. According to Estabillo, Carvajal was lucid and continued to monitor the aircraft. No emergency was declared and the pilot was immediately taken to a hospital.

Army says it foiled Cotabato bomb plot

COTABATO CITY—The military Thursday announced that it foiled a deadly bomb attack inside the public market of Kabacan, North Cotabato, with the recovery of at least three explosives packed in a carton box. But the local police said it was questioning the veracity of Tuesday's bomb find as nobody, except for the military, saw the bombs. Lt. Col. Julieto Ando, spokesperson of the Army's 6th Infantry Division, said the box included two 81-millimeter and a 60-millimeter mortar shells fitted with blasting caps, timing devices and batteries. He said soldiers disposed of the bombs before they caused alarm. Ando said forces loyal to Moro Islamic Liberation Front commander Ameril Ombra Kato were behind the bombing attempt. ***(Philippine Daily Inquirer)***

Bukidnon farmers storm DAR office

CAGAYAN DE ORO CITY—At least 150 farmers from Bukidnon stormed the regional office of the Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) in Macanhan, Carmen here to demand for the immediate resolution of their land cases. Holding up banners and streamers, the farmers, led by the peasant group Task Force Mapalad, broke past surprised security guards and successfully entered the DAR compound. They then padlocked the gates of the office but policemen, who came in full battle gear, unbolted it. Undeterred, the farmers used their bodies to barricade the gates, sitting on the ground, while calling on DAR officials to resign. The farmers, in particular, demanded the immediate issuance of notices of coverage for some 1,800 hectares of land, which are separately owned by big political families in Bukidnon, including the Fortich, the Sebastian and the Ocaya clans. ***(Philippine Daily Inquirer)***

5-year-old girl survives ambush on dad

MANILA, Philippines—A businessman was killed while his 5-year-old daughter was slightly injured in a shooting Wednesday night in Quezon City. Wilson Tayam, 42, a resident of 146 D. Banlat corner Datuin Road in Barangay Tandang Sora, died from several gun shot wounds in the hospital where he was rushed after the incident. His daughter, Sunshine Mae, is recovering from a wound near her left ear at the East Avenue Medical Center. Police are looking at the possibility of a business feud as the motive for the shooting. Police said the incident happened as Tayam was locking up their store on Tandang Sora Avenue in Barangay Old Balara. Tumangday said the businessman was hit on the left shoulder. Another bullet entered the left cheek and exited through the right cheek. A bullet grazed Sunshine Mae near the left ear. The suspect fled on foot after the shooting. ***(Philippine Daily Inquirer)***

27 OFWs returning from Jordan

By JEROME ANING
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

MANILA, Philippines—Twenty-seven undocumented or runaway Filipino workers will be returning to the country from Jordan on Saturday, Vice President Noli De Castro said Thursday.

The 27 worked in Jordan as domestic helpers and were either detained for violating immigration laws or running away from allegedly abusive employers. Their repatriation was made possible through the help of De Castro's office and the Overseas Workers and Welfare Administration.

The returning workers are: Leslie Abuela, Mary Agnes, Aisa Angkan, Jennifer Calvo, Genifer Candinato, Maricel Carlos, Violeta Castro, Ivy Castillo, Cherry Constante, Lilibeth Daquinan, Bebelyn Fajardo, Juvie Gandez, Nerissa Galit, Suraida Hamid, Marilou Lubiano, Cheryl Lumawag, Mirasol Maborang, Kristine Joy Melote, Norhata Mohamad, Zalgelyn Perez, Normina Pinagunay, Chery Pugado, her three month old daughter Princess Diana, Jonie Romero, Laila sangacala, Maisara Sara, Melissa Sarmiento and Alibai Salipadtu.

De Castro, who is also presidential adviser on overseas Filipino workers (OFWs), reminded those seeking employment abroad to do so through the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration (POEA).

He also advised OFWs to prepare for their jobs abroad psychologically, mentally and emotionally by undergoing stress management training offered through POEA.

UAE to take care of migrant workers

By VERONICA UY
INQUIRER.NET

MANILA, Philippines—In a pioneering move, the United Arab Emirates, home to millions of migrant workers, including more than half a million Filipinos, is taking responsibility for them during their stay there.

UAE Labor Minister Saqr Ghobash, at a press conference Thursday, said his government recognizes the positive contributions of the millions of migrant workers in the hospitality, health, technology, oil and gas, and financial services sectors.

Ghobash said his government has initiated a pilot project to track 3,000 workers, half from India and half from the Philippines, during all four stages of the deployment process.

The project, he said, is essentially a research into the best practices employed in the four stages: pre-departure, residency and work in the UAE, preparation for return, and return to and reintegration in the home country.

"We will identify and document the best practices of the administration of the full employment cycle," he said.

Ghobash presented the two-year pilot project, which will be launched January next year, at the government meeting of the Second Global Forum on Migration and Development.

He said his proposal has received positive feedback from the European Union, which has recently issued a directive on the procedure for the return of foreigners to their home countries.

Salem Ali Almuhairi, general director of the executive bureau of the Council of Ministers of Labor and Social Affairs of the Gulf Cooperation Council, said other GCC countries may adopt some of the best practices monitored in the project.

Aside from the UAE, the GCC countries include Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, and Saudi Arabia.

Philippine Labor Secretary Marianito Roque and Indian Labor Minister Collerken Gurucharan welcomed the UAE initiative.

Roque noted that UAE is the second top destination of overseas Filipino workers (OFWs) in the Middle East after Saudi Arabia. It is host to 304,241 documented Filipinos and 92 Filipino community organizations and associations.

"This project will contribute to the development of a multilateral framework for cooperation among Asian countries of origin and destination on best practices in the administration of the full temporary contractual employment cycle," he said.

Gurucharan said the project will showcase the three countries' best practices in jointly managing labor mobility. He admitted that the Philippines serves as India's model in this regard.

Labor Undersecretary Rosalinda Baldoz, of the Philippine steering committee of the project, said the 1,500 OFWs who will be tracked, will be equally divided among the hospitality, health, and construction sectors.

She said other details of the project—including the criteria for the workers to be chosen, how they will be hired, and provisions for abusive employers—will be threshed out in the coming days.

The project, officially called "Pilot Project: Administration of Temporary Contractual Employment Cycle from India and the Philippines to the United Arab Emirates," will be in partnership with the International Labor Organization (ILO), the InternationalOrganization for Migration (IOM), and the Arab Labor Organization (ALO).

Michele Klein Solomon, director for Migration Policy, Research, and Communication of the IOM, said the output of the project may be used by other countries in their own migration policies.

"This is a good project as it gets the participation of employers, recruiters, and other stakeholders," she said.

7-year-old girl among 4 hurt in blast

ZAMBOANGA, Philippines (AP)—A crude bomb exploded prematurely in the southern Philippines, wounding a 7-year-old girl, another passer-by and two suspected Muslim rebels who allegedly carried the device, officials said Friday.

The suspects were on a motorcycle when the bomb, made from a 81 mm mortar shell, accidentally went off late Thursday in front of a restaurant in Shariff Aguak town in Maguindanao province—scene of sporadic clashes between army troops and rebels, the military said.

The 7-year-old girl and a woman were wounded by shrapnel and taken to a hospital, said military spokesman Maj. Randolph Cabangbang. The two would-be bombers also were hurt and placed in police custody while an investigation continued, he said.

The province is a stronghold of Moro Islamic Liberation Front rebels, who have been fighting for self-rule in the predominantly Roman Catholic nation's south for decades.

Fresh violence erupted two months ago when the Supreme Court blocked the signing of a proposed accord on an expanded Muslim autonomous region, prompting three rebel commanders to go on a deadly rampage in several predominantly Christian communities.

President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo has ordered the arrest of the commanders and suspended Malaysian-brokered peace talks with the rebel group. More than 100 civilians have been killed and about 375,000 displaced in the fighting.

'Millions of migrant workers at risk from financial crisis'

By HRVOJE HRANJSKI
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Protecting the rights and livelihoods of millions of migrant workers during the global slowdown will benefit economies, U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon said Wednesday, while also warning that some will lose jobs.

Ban said as countries slip into recession, migration flows have started to reverse, with foreign laborers leaving the construction and tourism sectors in industrialized nations.

He cited a slowdown in remittances—the backbone of poor nations' economies like the Philippines—and the risk of discrimination as national financial crises caused a rise in unemployment, personal hardship and anxiety.

"It would be naive to think the current crisis will have no effect on the movement of people across borders and on how our public perceive migration and the migrants in their midst," Ban told an international conference on strengthening overseas workers' rights in Manila.

Rather than a curse, Ban said migration should be seen as a tool to lift economies because human mobility makes them more efficient "even if they are not growing by ensuring that the right skills can reach the right places at the right time."

Migration "also helps redress the enormous imbalances that have led to harsh economic realities" as the developing world's young adults provide a counterbalance to an aging and shrinking population in the developed nations, he said.

Ban said that constraining migration will only make lives more miserable for an estimated 200 million laborers, but will never stop them from crossing borders.

"This will undermine confidence in our ability to govern—confidence that has already been damaged by the financial crisis," he said.

President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo of the Philippines, which hosted the Global Forum on Migration and Development, also called on governments to strengthen laws to protect migrant workers, saying, "All eyes may be glued to stock markets, but we can't lose sight of the poor."

With more than 8 million overseas workers, her country is among the world's top exporters of human labor, together with Mexico, India, Indonesia, Sri Lanka and Pakistan.

Some $14 billion remittances last year amounted to 10 percent of the Philippines' gross domestic product.

Arroyo said earlier that Filipino workers have not been affected yet by the global financial storm.

ON THE NET

Global Forum on Migration: http://government.gfmd2008.org

AP

Philippine President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo, center, observes as UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, left, and Philippine Foreign Affairs Secretary Alberto Romulo prepare to sign the Memorandum of Agreement of the UN Standby Arrangement System at the Malacanang Presidential palace in suburban Manila, Philippines on Wednesday Oct. 29, 2008.

Associated Press writers Oliver Teves, Jim Gomez and Teresa Cerojano contributed to this report.

Biggest oil price rollback yet

MANILA, Philippines—With world crude prices dropping significantly, most oil firms in the country Thursday cut gasoline and kerosene prices by P2 a liter, and diesel prices by P5 a liter—the biggest rollback yet for the fuel used by public buses and jeepneys.

One company, Unioil Petroleum Philippines Inc., effected higher price cuts—P2.50 a liter for gasoline and P6 a liter for diesel.

The price cuts came two days after Speaker Prospero Nograles threatened to impose a tax on windfall profits of oil firms to compel them to bring down their prices amid plunging world crude prices.

The country's three largest oil firms—Petron Corp., Pilipinas Shell Petroleum Corp. and Chevron Philippines Inc. (formerly Caltex)—implemented the price reduction at 7 a.m. Thursday, followed by PTT Philippines Corp. at 9 a.m.

Total (Philippines) Corp. and Eastern Petroleum Corp. slashed prices at noon.

Seaoil Philippines Inc. adjusted prices earlier at 12:01 a.m. Thursday, but only by P2 a liter for gasoline, diesel and kerosene.

It reduced diesel prices by another P2 a liter at 8 a.m., bringing its total rollback to P4 a liter for diesel.

Since July 31, gasoline prices have gone down 13 times for a total of P15.50 a liter.

Diesel and kerosene prices, on the other hand, had been cut 12 times for a total of P16.50 and P13.50 a liter, respectively.

With the price cuts, prices of premium unleaded gasoline now range from P42.56 to P46.15 a liter, diesel from P38.95 to P41.09 a liter, and kerosene from P46.45 to P49.80 a liter.

The current diesel price range is now within striking distance of the P37-a-liter pump price that transport groups are demanding.

Oil firms in the country have been accused of being too slow in bringing down prices when world market prices drop and too fast in raising these when world prices go up.

RP builders learn from past crashes

MANILA, Philippines (AFP)—In Manila's upscale business district of Makati, luxury flats are still fetching record prices, but the country's property barons are getting nervous as the financial crisis takes hold.

Builders have already started to review their plans amid fears that the huge Filipino expatriate work force that last year sent home more than $14 billion, could shrink as jobs are lost in the recession-hit West.

"We haven't experienced changes in default rates," said Alfonso Reyes, chief investor relations officer for Ayala Land, the property firm that built Makati.

"But given the uncertainty of the environment, it is understandable that there's a bit of a wait-and-see attitude that is prevailing in some of the hard-hit markets in the US," he told AFP.

A third of Ayala Land's residential sales last year were to Filipino expatriates, half of them based in the US. The figure excludes sales to locally-based relatives who may be receiving remittance money.

That figure has now dropped to 23 percent, Reyes said.

The SM Group, the country's top shopping mall operator, still expects net profit to rise 13 percent to P14 billion ($285.7 million) this year as consumer spending remains firm in the retail sector. But it has since announced it will trim its P4-billion budget for the middle-income condominium market for 2009.

"Management feels that due to the global financial crisis, demand for housing may be dampened," said company spokeswoman Sarah Kae Llovido.

But experts say that some high-end developments may be recession-proof, thanks simply to their scarcity.

Luxury 300-square-meter high rise condo units in Makati, such as Discovery Primea with its private lifts, bedrooms the size of a helipad and Italian marble floors, and the nearby Raffles Residences project are among those residences that developers hope will hold their value no matter how tough the going gets.

$$ PERSONAL FINANCE

Should I guarantee my friend's loan?

Editor's Note: This is a partnership between INQUIRER.net and Citibank to help readers handle their personal finances well.

Question: A friend from work asked me if I can sign on her loan document as guarantor. She will use the money to buy a small home in their province. Although we're very close and I know her to be honest and responsible, I am having second thoughts about signing on the document. What really happens when a person signs as guarantor to a loan?—Marcy

Answer: Banks and financial institutions grant loans to individuals who have passed stringent credit checks. These people are known to be of good character, have a good credit history, are not considered credit risks, and have proven themselves to have the capacity to pay, having a steady income from a job, business or profession.

Collateral is also often required in loans. This may be a real estate property, automobile, or securities owned by a person that may be required by the bank or financial institution as assurance that it will be paid. If a person defaults or cannot pay off the loan, the collateral is becomes the bank or financial institution's property.

If your friend is deemed credit worthy by the bank or financial institution she is approaching for a loan, and if she has ample collateral, she will be granted a loan in no time. There would be no need for a guarantor. However, if the bank or financial institution feels that additional assurance is needed that the creditor (person applying for the loan) can pay, it may require a guarantor to sign the loan document.

What exactly is a guarantor? As the name implies, a guarantor guarantees to or assures the bank or financial institution that a person's loan will be paid. He in effect tells the bank or financial institution that he will pay the loan if for some reason the creditor will not be able to pay it in full plus interest. A guarantor can guarantee any type of loan, from a housing loan to even credit card debt.

Be very careful about signing as guarantor in any type of loan. Some people do not realize how serious a matter it is until they find themselves in unfavorable circumstances.

There have been cases of debtors defaulting on their loans and disappearing, even going as far as fleeing to other countries so banks and financial institutions cannot go after them. Guarantors are then looked up and held accountable for the payments already due. It can be quite a shock to be asked, even compelled, to pay for a loan you did not apply for, as some of these guarantors have experienced. And should you be unable to pay off the loan, you may be faced with a court case and your credit history will be severely affected.

Your situation is delicate, considering that it's your close friend who is asking you the favor of co-signing as guarantor for a loan. But do not decide on the basis of friendship and emotions alone. Ask yourself if you are willing and are able to assume paying your friend's loan in the event she defaults on paying it.

Should you decide to go ahead and sign on as guarantor, start saving more than you normally do and invest this wisely, just in case the inevitable happens in the future. Make sure you maintain ties with your friend for the duration of the paying period.

If you decide to decline your friend's request, this does not mean the end of a friendship. There are some other things she can do, such as lowering the loan amount, securing other collateral, and maybe even asking family members to share ownership of the property she plans to buy. Or she may even consider postponing purchasing the property at this time and just continue saving on her own until she has built up enough funds. Your friend may also want to look at a more affordable property. Yet another thing she can do is to check out government financial institutions such Pag-Ibig Fund, SSS or GSIS to see if she will be able to qualify for a higher loan amount at a lower interest cost.

It is important for anyone applying for a loan to determine if he/she will be able to afford the regular payments for the number of years specified. If your friend is not confident she can do this, by all means, she should forego applying for the loan at this time.

INQUIRER.net and Citibank invite readers to ask questions regarding financial matters. Send your questions to personal_finance@inquirer.net. Readers are solely responsible for their own investment decisions and should thus conduct their own research and due diligence and obtain professional advice. INQUIRER.net will not be liable for any loss or damage caused by a reader's reliance on information obtained from our web site.

Maharlika – PinoyStyle

Rivermaya parts ways with manager

By Inquirer.net Entertainment Staff

MANILA, Philippines—More than a year after Rivermaya front man Rico Blanco left to pursue a solo career, it's now the other members' turn to take drastic action.

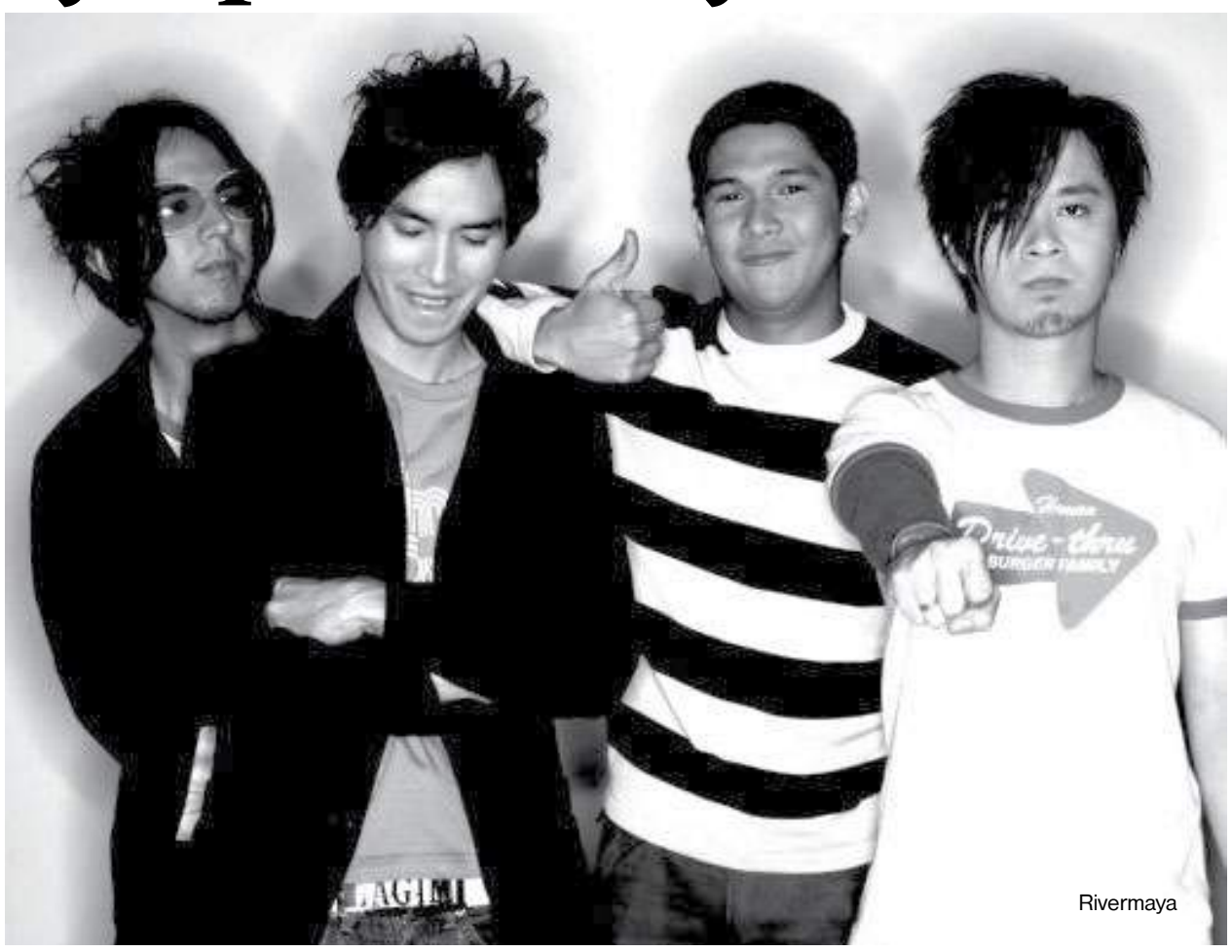
No, none of them is about to leave the band again. Instead, they have decided to part ways with manager Lizza Nakpil. One band member was said to have consulted with a songwriters' group about record contracts that Rivermaya has entered into since its inception.

One of the major issues at hand, according to a source, is the unauthorized collection of royalties due the band.

Contacted by INQUIRER.net, Nakpil said the allegations were "untrue and baseless." "They are pressuring me to give up the Rivermaya trademark, which I worked hard for years, by coming up with these trumped-up charges," Nakpil said. She described the charges as "incredible and bizarre."

Nakpil said the attempt to have her give up the trademark was due to a planned Rivermaya reunion concert. "You can just imagine how expensive that (trademark) will be. I call that greed."

Rivermaya drummer Mark Escueta—the only original band member to have remained after Perf de Castro, Bamboo Mañalac, Nathan Azarcon and Blanco all quit—declined to comment as advised by lawyers, but sent the Philippine Daily Inquirer this SMS: "All I can tell you is that she is no longer our agent, and no longer allowed to represent Rivermaya... "


Rivermaya

Secret weapon

Embattled Actor has an ace up his sleeve. EA is currently battling it out with another Controversial Celebrity and her Hired Hack.

A friend suggested to EA to ask the help of a Former Lover who is now the mistress of the brother-in-law of a Powerful Politico.

A mole surmises that the reason HH was sacked by a major network was that EA pulled strings with the help of FL and her PP-benefactor.

Fall from grace

Another spy thinks HH was relieved from her hosting chores because she involved a Network Talent in her raging war with a Bitter Enemy.

She claims NT knocked up BE who's very much involved with another man.

Another version of this conspiracy theory?

HH's fall from grace was sparked by the machinations of another "frenemy"—a Fellow Host with whom she had a very public falling out because HH lambasted FH's hubby.

Confusing, but one thing's clear: HH has lots of enemies.

Follow the leader

HH's minion, a Male Host, was similarly eased out from the same network, said a source.

The official explanation given was MH's intrigue-mongering offended the channel's Biggest Star.

A Network Insider, however, alleges that the real reason MH was booted out was because bosses found out that, like HH, he receives $100 every time he greets US-based friends on his shows.

■ ■ ■

Top of the talk shows

For those who missed last weekend's gabfests on TV. (And why we are moved, if we are moved.)

■ Pauleen Luna, asked about a snubbing incident with Michelle Madrigal in a recent story conference for an upcoming GMA 7 program because of a longtime spat over JC de Vera: "Mas okay naman pong ganoon kaysa mag-ka-clash kami..."

■ Michelle's reaction: "Sa akin naman, wala naman akong problema. And, one thing nga with me, kung may problema ka sa akin, if you want to tell me something, kung naiinis ka sa akin or anything, just tell me na lang straight up..."

■ JC's reaction: "Gusto ko lang i-clear yun, di sa akin. Wala po akong kinalaman sa away nila."

• Heart Evangelista, who is the lead star in the drama, also reacts: "Naiintriga ako kay Paulene at kay Michelle. Pagbabatiin ko talaga sila. Meron akong goal. Kailangan may kabutihan na maiidulot ang soap na to, sa mga buhay naming lahat."

■ Paolo Paraiso, on the possibility of reuniting with Mylene Dizon, who's pregnant with their second child: "Maganda kung magkakabalikan kami dahil mahal namin ang isa't isa ... yung kusang loob na tatanggapin ako ni My uli."

■ Mylene, asked if she would want to mend ties with Paolo: "I want to wait for that time, that sign, that feeling. Ayokong pilitin. Gusto kong dumating nang kusa."

Second time around

■ Benjie Paras, on finding and marrying his second wife, Ly Diomampo: "Before I entered sa ibang relasyon ulit, kailangan kong isipin yung mga anak ko. Ako ba tatanggapin with them? So nung nakita ko naman na, uy, teacher, mahaba ang pasensiya nito dahil sanay sa mga bata, nag-work."

Warm welcome

■ Francis Magalona, on his return to the "Eat Bulaga" stage last Saturday: "Ang feeling ko, from the last time I stepped there was Aug. 4, you know, it's been a long journey ... And now to actually step into the studio, grab the microphone, perform, see all of the people, I'm very happy. I'm glad to be home."

Has Heart found a new man?

By DOLLY ANNE CARVAJAL
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

MANILA, Philippines—Has Heart Evangelista found a new love after Jericho Rosales? She is often seen with FD, a 32-year-old scion of a prominent clan who's into shipping and real estate.

"He's cultured and unassuming. The type of guy you would want to bring home to grandma," says a common friend.

Will Heart's protective parents welcome FD into their home? Her ex Echo got to enter Ongpauco territory only during her birthday last year (after years of going steady)—and they split up shortly after.

Will FD entrance Heart's folks enough so his entry into their home wouldn't take too long?

Honeymooners

Paolo Santos and his wife Jiji are off to Europe for their honeymoon. "We will be taking a Mediterranean cruise. It's a gift from my father-in-law," says Pao. "My gift to her is an LV bag to use on our trip."

At their wedding, the Acoustic King ended up performing.

"The highlight of the program was when Jiji and I did a duet. She's not a pro but for the love of me napakanta siya. "Bakit Ngayon Ka Lang" ang kinanta namin! 'Di bagay sa bagong kasal. Para sa mga nagtataksil ang song na yon (laughs)!"

The carefree bachelor in Pao has taken a bow and made a vow to love Ji for better, for worse and for good.

Heart Evangelista

Rocking the boat

Just when a celebrity couple thought all is well in their domestic front, here comes a relative rocking the boat again. "Sinisiraan niya ako sa mga friends ko through Facebook. 'Yung mga guys that I declined to be my contacts and blocked, kinokontak niya at pinapalabas niya na I'm flirting with them. Sinasabi niya sa husband ko na ka-chat ko daw this or that guy," laments the wife. "Magaling siya mag-brainwash. Goal niya ata sirain ang pamilya namin." Haunting them in time for Halloween?

Greener pastures

After all the controversies Nadia Montenegro got embroiled in for the past weeks, she's taking a much needed break in San Francisco. "I'll visit my mom," Nadj says. "And arrange a celebrity golf tournament dun." Enough verbal tournament for Nadj and her enemies. On to greener pastures. On the golf course, that is.

Mentoring the future of Asian cinema

By BAYANI SAN DIEGO JR.
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

MANILA, Philippines—Playing the role of mentor for the first time was daunting, admits Filipino filmmaker Brillante "Dante" Mendoza who was invited to teach at the Asian Film Academy (AFA) in Pusan, South Korea last month.

"I never imagined that I'd also learn a lot from the students," he notes.

The 17-day program, dubbed "Be the Future of Asian Cinema," gathered 22 budding filmmakers from countries as diverse as Nepal, Singapore, Iran, Taiwan, Malaysia and Afghanistan.

There were three "fellows" from the Philippines: production designer Armi Cacanindin, cinematographer Maisa Demetillo and short filmmaker Sheron Dayoc.

Mendoza, whose latest "Serbis" is the first Filipino movie invited to the 46th New York Film Fest, says he was "inspired" by the students. "I saw how enthusiastic they were. I realized that a filmmaker shouldn't lose his excitement for making movies."

An interesting question raised during the Master Class involved Mendoza's "guerrilla style of filmmaking."

A participant asked: "How can you shoot in a crowded mall without people noticing it?"

Mendoza's answer is simple. "Prepare."

An example is the hotel lobby scene in "Foster Child," he points out. "We had to plan in advance. Rent [for the hotel] was per hour so we had to move quickly."

Before the actual shoot, Mendoza's team took footage of the lobby and showed it to the bit players. "I showed them where they'd stand … by the time we got to the set, they already knew their blocking."

Also in "Foster," Mendoza had to scrap a shoot in a busy Mandaluyong street because of unruly bystanders.

Providentially, the failed shoot served as dress rehearsal. "When we went back later, the shoot went smoothly because we already knew what to do, where to put the camera," he recounts. "By the time the fans noticed us, we were already finished with our work."

He constantly tells students: "Always have a Plan A and a Plan B. Mistakes are bound to happen, so always have an alternative ready."

Mendoza explains: "I didn't go to film school. I learned filmmaking on the job. That's what I can share with young directors: My experiences on the set."

Maharlika – Opinyon

EDITORIAL

The future of OFWs

Here's the thing: Migration is a permanent phenomenon. As UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon told the Second Global Forum on Migration and Development on Wednesday, "with or without an economic crisis, the underlying forces that have led 200 million people to cross international borders in pursuit of a better life will not disappear."

In a time of great economic turmoil, however, it can also be a lifeline. "Migration can and should be a tool to help lift us out of this economic crisis," Ban told some 800 delegates from 163 countries, gathered in the Manila forum.

This is a message to which the administration of President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo will be more than ordinarily receptive.

Ban did not provide specifics, but Foreign Secretary Alberto Romulo did. Last year, Romulo told the forum, some 200 million migrants worldwide sent back to their home countries about $240 billion.

Ban, only the third UN secretary general to visit the Philippines, said migration makes "economies more efficient, even when they are not growing, by ensuring that the right skills can reach the right places at the right time."

The Philippines has certainly benefited from its floating population of roughly eight million workers overseas. Billions of dollars remitted by overseas Filipino workers have helped raise the country's gross national product, the standard of living in OFW-heavy provinces and the ordinary Filipino's awareness about work opportunities abroad.

But there is nothing permanent, or there shouldn't be, about the country's deployment of OFWs. As a nation, we must prepare for a time—indeed we must build a future—when labor export will not be a centerpiece of our economic strategy.

This is not to say that we should impose limits on outbound migration. We see the wisdom in Ban's remarks, issued in a press briefing: "Rather than limit [migration] through national legislation or framework, it is beneficial for everyone to have overall exchanges and cooperation on human mobility to support favorable conditions that are acceptable and accommodating for migration. Too much restriction will increase migration through illegal channels which causes more problems in integration and in social and economic fields."

Considering that hundreds of thousands leave the country for the proverbial greener pasture abroad, we must make the cause of "cooperation on human mobility" our own.

We do not want a single Filipino to fall victim to unscrupulous recruiters or cruel employers; it is in our deepest national interest that we enter into "overall exchanges" with host countries, allowing us to ensure a minimum level of "favorable conditions" for our workers.

It is also in our deepest national interest to make sure that, to use Ban's optimistic framework, the "right skills" of Filipino workers "reach the right places at the right time." There is no gainsaying the experience and expertise our workers learn abroad, which they can then place, eventually, at the country's disposal.

But the social and personal costs of migration are well documented. The heaviest burden is perhaps that of suffering even the temporary loss of some of the country's best and brightest, who leave the country not so much in pursuit of a better future but because they find they have no future here at home. In education, for instance, some very good teachers have decided to stay behind. But others, equally good, have left the Philippine educational system to teach English in Texas or Physics in New York. The full benefit of their experience and expertise goes to their American students, not to Filipino pupils. Understood from that perspective, the value of the remittances they make, while substantial and significant, pales in comparison.

Much needs to be done at home, not only on the economic front (such as ensuring progressively higher pay for qualified teachers) but in governance too. (The culture of corruption is an enormous disincentive.)

That was what was missing in Ban's opening address: A recognition that, while we must lower more barriers to encourage mobility in an increasingly global economy, each country must work to make migration less necessary. Some of the greenest pastures must be found at home. ***(Philippine Daily Inquirer)***

OFWs: Expatriates with less rights

Perhaps 30 years ago, no one could imagine that our entire nation would be so completely and systemically dependent on money remittances from overseas Filipino workers for its sustenance and for its supply of hard currency. That is why it is significant that the Second Global Forum on Migration and Development is being hosted in Manila, where apparently the government believes that migration is development, that to escape poverty one must escape from his country—and worse, that its citizens agree wholeheartedly.

Passion For Reason

By RAUL PANGALANGAN
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

It is also significant that no less than the United Nations secretary general has lent his presence to the forum. His backing should highlight the campaign to ratify the Convention for the Protection of Migrant Workers.

This convention is unique. It may have earned the support of the sending states, but what it really needs is the ratification by the countries of destination. In other words, the Philippines, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka may grandly declare that migrants have rights, but who cares? (Legally, though, their support does help to "crystallize" migrants' rights into binding customary law, but at the earliest that will benefit the next generation of OFWs, and God forbid that we still remain hostage to OFW remittances that far along into the future!) What will ultimately make a difference is when destination countries like Singapore (host state to Flor Contemplacion), the United Arab Emirates (host state to Sarah Balabagan) and, come to think of it, South Korea (home state of UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon) affirm migrants' rights as well.

President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo has advised the nation that henceforth we should refer to our migrant workers as "expatriates" and not as OFWs. Typically they both labor under fixed-term foreign contracts, do not enjoy permanent residence where they work, and are bound to return home when their employment ends. Indeed, where lies the difference? By and large, the only real distinction is economics, e.g., the size of the paycheck, and the social status that comes with being higher in the totem pole. From the standpoint of the country of origin (in this case, the Philippines), the distinction is purely social and typically hierarchical, and Filipino expatriate professionals often escape the mass of regulations that apply to OFWs.

But perhaps the real distinction is from the standpoint of the host state, which can have different visa categories that formalize the social hierarchy and allow the migrant worker the ultimate privilege of being united with his or her family—and deny that privilege to the ordinary OFW.

This problem of family unification is by no means new. For Filipino migrant workers, starting with the original Hawaii banana plantation workers up to today's domestic helpers, there have been legal impediments that barred their families from joining them. The separation of families is the true social cost of migrant labor. Worse, until recently, it was largely an invisible cost, because it was internalized and absorbed by displaced parents and orphaned children, who bore the loneliness and separation privately.

On the other hand, there is actually one problem in which expatriate and OFW alike should find common cause: discrimination on the basis of race, nationality or national origin. Snooty Filipinos tend to carry abroad their deeply ingrained snobbery and continue to distinguish themselves from Filipinos employed, say, as domestic servants. I have news for you, Doña Victorina. Even your accent sounds pidgin to the foreign ear, the patois of the eternally trying-hard. To the people in the host countries, we all look and sound alike. They can't tell the difference; we all are lumped together under the same racial stereotypes. For your own sake, embrace your own because the foreigners never will.

I agree with the UN secretary general when he said that if we "needlessly constrain [the] legal means for migration, [it] will flow through unsafe and irregular channels." I hope too that he was speaking to both the sending and receiving states. The Philippine government must streamline and limit OFW regulations narrowly for the sole purpose of protecting OFWs from illegal recruiters at home and, abroad, from predatory agencies, inhumane employers and repressive host states.

But receiving states must heed him as well. Notice that countries of destination treat the protection of migrant workers as an issue not of labor protection but of immigration. The irony is that their economies need migrant workers, who perform labor that their own market demands. Otherwise, why hire from abroad?

Whenever these wealthy states speak of a globalized economy, they speak so grandly about the mobility of capital and the free, borderless trade of goods. Then suddenly when we speak about the mobility of labor, they suddenly invoke the language of immigration. In other words, international law has been mobilized to tear down national barriers to the movement of capital and trade, but not the walls that guard against the movement of labor.

Sure, immigration rules are needed because the influx of foreigners destabilizes local communities. But host countries have, in the past, deliberately assumed that risk when, say, they welcomed the refugee diaspora from Indochina in the mid-1970s. Why? Because it was a social cost they were willing to pay to right the injustices borne by the refugees.

There are similar social costs to the OFW diaspora. Why should the Filipino worker bear that cost alone? Why shouldn't the state of destination, the host state, willingly share in the erstwhile invisible costs of a service from which they benefit?

Comments to passionforreason@gmail.com.

What's in a pen name?

After the semestral school break, I should really take the time to return to the University of the Philippines Main Library in Diliman, Quezon City, to take notes on the rest of the pseudonyms listed on those yellowing pieces of newsprint in that forgotten drawer of useless information. The list is only useful to literary historians, and I do wonder who was the strange bird who compiled all this data and for what purpose? Has the research been discontinued or is there someone still compiling pseudonyms, nicknames and pen names, bringing everything (e.g., "Jose Velarde" and "Garci") up to date?

Looking Back

By AMBETH OCAMPO
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

In recent political history, one only has to look at media to see how airtime and column inches were saved by compressing: Corazon C. Aquino into "Cory" and Joseph Ejercito Estrada into "Erap." Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo is definitely a mouthful, so this has been shortened to "GMA." Unfortunately, those initials, depending on the context, can either mean the President or it can be mistaken as the television network GMA7. With regard to signatures, those familiar with documents emanating from Malacañang know that the President usually signs important papers with her full name. There are some documents signed only with her married name—"Gloria Arroyo"—and, if in a hurry, with the simple initial "Gma." (Note the distinct capital "G" and the lower case for the surnames.) In rare moments, the President make a letter more personal with the familiar "Gloria." Naturally, no document signed by the President is official and binding unless it is attested to and countersigned by Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita, with his now familiar scrawl under the words "By the President." This may partly explain why executive secretaries—from Jorge Vargas under Manuel Quezon to Ermita under Arroyo—are referred to as the "Little President." All these are small details, trivial to most, but they must be significant in some way.

Going back to the University of the Philippines' list of pseudonyms — Jesus Balmori, a writer and poet in Spanish, used the pseudonym "Baticuling," a type of wood; Jose Corazon de Jesus was either "Bato," "Batute," or "Huseng Batute"; Antonio Luna, who was of Ilocano ancestry but was born in Binondo, Manila, close to the Pasig River, used "Taga-ilog," which, when further contracted, becomes "Tagalog."

Others played on their initials, like the bibliographer Gabriel A. Bernardo who was simply "B.A.G," "Gab" or "Bargeli Barderon." Claro M. Recto was a poet before he became a senator, nationalist icon, and street name, so he signed himself "Clovis Ronsard." Kapampangan playright Juan Crisostomo Soto was simply "Crissot," and his plays became a genre known in literature as "Crissotan."

Some writers actually make the trouble to make allusions to earlier and greater literature hence the poet Cecilio Apostol used "Catulo," "Calipso" and "Calypso." Felipe Calderon took names from Rizal's novels and signed as "Simoun" or "Elias." Marcelo H. del Pilar had a number of names: "Carmelo," "O. Crame," "D.M. Calero," "Hilario," "Kupang," and "M. Dati." Jose Ma. Sison is now known as "Amado Guerrero," the byline appearing in the book "Philippine Society and Revolution." I asked him to autograph my little red book, and he signed it "Jose Ma. Sison" — with a star as a flourish at the end. I asked why he chose the pseudonym Amado Guerrero, and he chuckled: "It means 'Beloved Warrior.'" He then added that he was not as conceited as someone else in the movement who used the name "Salvador del Mundo" (Savior of the World).

Come to think of it, the hard-hitting prewar newspaper columnist Amando Dayrit used the pseudonym "Cyclops," which could mean the monster in Greek mythology or that he was the one-eyed man in the kingdom of the blind.

Virgilio S. Almario is the name used by the dean of the University of the Philippines College of Arts and Letters when he signs official papers, but when the muse takes hold of his pen he becomes "Rio Alma" (River Soul).

What possessed Diosdado Macapagal, the Philippine president who was a poet earlier in life, to take the name "Dandelion"?

What is in a pen name or pseudonym? A lot.

Comments are welcome at aocampo@ateneo.edu.

Samu't Sari

FIT CLUB LAUNCHING

NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.

Tan Holdings Corp. executives Ivan Quichocho, left, and Eli G. Arago cut the ribbon on the free weight machines during the grand opening of Fit Club, a free gym exclusive to Tan Holdings' employees, last Oct. 29, 2008, at the second floor of the CIC Centre in Garapan.

KRISTI EATON

Nutrition specialist Patty Coleman of NMC-CREES demonstrates with Ed Arriola the amount of fat and sugar present in such foods as processed meat, corned beef, and fruit juices during the launching program for Fit Club at the parking lot of the CIC Centre along Beach Road in Garapan Wednesday afternoon.

NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.

Tan Holdings Corp. executives Lynn Knight, left, and Adelina Dimaano cut the ribbon on the treadmill machine, the elliptical machine, and the stationary bicycle during the grand opening of Fit Club on Oct. 29, 2008, at the second floor of the CIC Centre in Garapan. Fit Club is a free gym exclusive to Tan Holdings' employees.

KRISTI EATON

Ed Arriola of Tan Holdings Corp.'s Corporate Affairs Department emcees the launching program for Fit Club at the parking lot of the CIC Centre along Beach Road in Garapan Wednesday afternoon.

SHIRLEY'S CLEANUP

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Thirty-three volunteers from Shirley's Coffee Shop led by restaurant manager Susan Macario removed 45 lbs of marine debris along the shoreline of Chalan Laulau beach on Oct. 21. Shirley's Coffee Shop has participated in the DEQ Adopt A Beach program since 2006.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Volunteers from Shirley's Coffee Shop put marine debris inside trash bags during a cleanup held along the shoreline of Chalan Laulau beach on Oct. 21.

WELCOME

Happy Christening handsome John Hazel as they continue the celebration at Shirley's Coffee Shop in Susupe. With him are his loving parents Helena and Elmer.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Happy Christening to Christian Glenn Maglaya, who was welcomed to the Christian world on Oct. 25, 2008. "We love you." Love Mommy and Daddy

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Youngstyle

DO VAMPIRES REALLY SUCK BLOOD FROM VICTIMS?

KidsPost asked our expert on all things gross, Washington pediatrician Howard Bennett to tackle this question just in time for Halloween. Since he's writing a book called "The (Gross) Facts of Life," he was delighted to tell us about vampires—not the fakes ones from horror movies but the real vampire bats that fly at night.

There are more than 1,000 species of bats in the world, but only three of them feed on blood. They live in Central and South America.

Bats are nocturnal creatures—they sleep during the day and come out at night to feed. They live in caves, tree hollows and buildings. The common vampire bat has a six- to eight-inch wingspan and a body the size of an adult thumb.

Vampire Trivia

Blood makes up about 7 percent of what a person weighs.

(c) 2008, The Washington Post

Vampire bats don't actually suck blood, they prefer to lick it—like an ice cream cone. After making a tiny cut in an animal's skin, the bats lap up the blood with their tongues.

The common vampire bat feeds on horses, pigs and cows; the other two species prefer birds. Although vampire bats occasionally bite humans, we are not on their standard menu.

Blood contains chemicals that causes blood to clot, that's how a person stops bleeding. All blood-sucking animals have chemicals in their saliva that keep blood from clotting. The chemical in a vampire bat's blood is called draculin, which is an obvious nod to Count Dracula, the most famous vampire ever.

On a good night, a vampire bat will drink half of its body weight in blood. If an 80-pound kid tried to do this, he would have to drink five gallons of liquid! However, since vampire bats are so small, they only drain a tablespoon of blood from their host.

Blood is made of solid elements such as red and white blood cells and a watery substance called plasma.

Because vampire bats ingest so much, they must eliminate excess water right away or become too heavy to fly. Luckily, they have very efficient kidneys and start to pee while they are still eating!

When vampire bats return to the roost, they meet face to face. If one bat went unfed, another bat will often regurgitate (or throw up) blood to share. Would you do the same thing if your sister came home late for dinner one night?

Although the bite of a vampire bat is not itself dangerous, it can spread a serious disease called rabies. If you ever see or hear about someone being bitten by a bat, tell a grownup. Unless, of course, it is a 4-year-old dressed up as a bat for Halloween. In that case, just offer a piece of candy.

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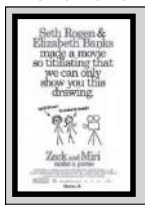

Zack and Miri Make a Porno

Friday		4:15	7:20	9:50
Saturday	1:25	4:15	7:20	9:50
Sunday	1:25	4:15	7:20	
Mon and Tue		4:15	7:20	

Seth Rogen, Elizabeth Banks
Romantic Comedy • Rated R

Synopsis
Lifelong friends and roommates Zack and Miri are facing hard times and a mountain of debt. When the electricity and plumbing get cut off, they seize upon the idea of making a homegrown porno movie for some quick cash, enlisting the help of their friends. The two vow that having sex will not ruin their friendship. But as filming begins, what started out as a business proposition between friends turns into something much more.

The Duchess

Friday		4:10	7:25	9:40
Saturday	1:20	4:10	7:25	9:40
Sunday	1:20	4:10	7:25	
Mon and Tue		4:10	7:25	

Keira Knightley, Ralph Fiennes
Drama, Biopic • Rated PG 13

Synopsis
Long before the concept existed, the Duchess of Devonshire, Georgiana Spencer, was the original "It Girl." Like her direct descendent Princess Diana, she was ravishing, glamorous and adored by an entire country. Determined to be a player in the wider affairs of the world, she proved that she could out-gamble, out-drink and outwit most of the aristocratic men who surrounded her. She helped usher in sweeping changes to England as a leader of the forward-thinking Whig Party.

★ ★ ★

High School Musical 3

Friday		4:00	7:10	9:45
Saturday	1:15	4:00	7:10	9:45
Sunday	1:15	4:00	7:10	
Mon and Tue		4:00	7:10	

Zac Efron, Ashley Tisdale
Musical • Rated G

Beverly Hills Chihuahua

Friday		4:05	7:00	9:30
Saturday	1:00	4:05	7:00	9:30
Sunday	1:00	4:05	7:00	
Mon and Tue		4:05	7:00	

Drew Barrymore (v), Andy Garcia (v)
Comedy, Adventure • Rated PG

Pride and Glory

Friday		4:30	7:15	9:55
Saturday	1:10	4:30	7:15	9:55
Sunday	1:10	4:30	7:15	
Mon and Tue		4:30	7:15	

Edward Norton, Colin Farrell
Drama, Crime, Animated • Rated R

Eagle Eye

Friday		4:20	7:05	9:35
Saturday	1:05	4:20	7:05	9:35
Sunday	1:05	4:20	7:05	
Mon and Tue		4:20	7:05	

Shia LaBeouf, Michelle Monaghan
Drama • Rated PG 13

Max Payne

Friday		4:25	7:30	10:00
Saturday	1:30	4:25	7:30	10:00
Sunday	1:30	4:25	7:30	
Mon and Tue		4:25	7:30	

Mark Wahlberg, Mila Kunis
Action, Adventure • Rated PG 13

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Where the candidates stand on energy

By VALERIE STRAUSS
(C) 2008, THE WASHINGTON POST

WASHINGTON—The presidential candidates, Republican Sen. John McCain of Arizona and Democratic Sen. Barack Obama of Illinois, each says one of his biggest goals is to make the country "energy independent."

Basic approach

McCain: Favors increased drilling in the waters off the U.S. coast to find more oil and favors drilling in areas that are now off-limits. Would greatly expand use of nuclear power. Would commit $2 billion annually to develop coal that doesn't pollute and give tax credits to companies to develop environmentally friendly energy.

McCain

Obama: Would invest $150 billion over 10 years to develop non-polluting energy sources. Would drill for oil on land and urge oil companies to find oil offshore in areas where they have permission to drill.

Goals for using less

McCain: Has not set target for cutting U.S. oil consumption or increasing renewable energy sources. Would enforce existing rules for how many miles per gallon a car should get.

Obama: Reduce oil consumption by 35 percent by 2030, in part by requiring new cars to get more miles per gallon each year. Ensure 10 percent of electricity comes from renewable sources by 2012; 25 percent by 2025.

Tax on oil company profits

McCain: Opposes extra taxes on oil companies when they make more than a set amount of profit. Says higher taxes would mean oil companies would cut back oil exploration in the United States.

Obama: Would impose extra tax on big profits (called a windfall profits tax) and use the money to give families a $1,000 rebate to help pay rising energy bills.

Nuclear power

McCain: Would use federal money to help build 45 nuclear power plants by 2030, saying that nuclear power has been proved safe.

Obama

Obama: Wants to make sure the process of producing nuclear energy is safe before building new plants.

Other sources or ideas

McCain: Would offer a $300 million prize for anyone who creates a car battery that improves greatly on what is now available; $5,000 tax credit for people who buy cars that don't pollute.

Obama: Put 1 million plug-in hybrid cars — cars made in America that can get up to 150 miles per gallon — on the road by 2015; $7,000 tax credit for people who buy cars that don't pollute.

Why energy is a big issue

WASHINGTON—When you ride in a car to go school or to the movies, you may not think about the gasoline in the tank. But adults do—more than ever.

Here's why:

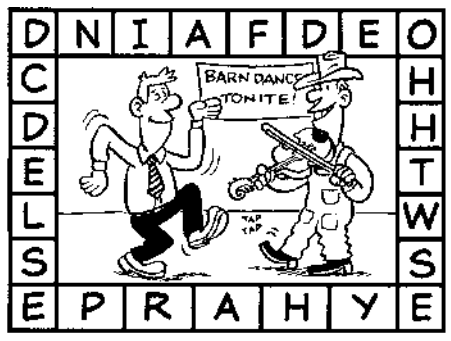
A decade ago this month, the average price of a gallon of regular gas was $1.36 (in today's dollars). In mid-July it was $4.10. Today it's less than $3 in most places. You can see that it has gone way up and come back down, which is part of the problem. The price doesn't remain stable.

These issues are very important to families because the cost of many things, including food, is linked to the cost of gas. (How does food get to the supermarket? On trucks.)

Energy is a particularly big issue for the United States because we're energy hogs. With 5 percent of the world's people, we use about 22 percent of the world's energy each year.

There are many sources of energy, and Americans use a variety. The biggest, though, is oil; it meets 40 percent of our energy needs.

We used to produce all the oil we needed here. But we began to need more and started buying from other countries. Since 1994, we have bought more petroleum from other nations than we produce ourselves.

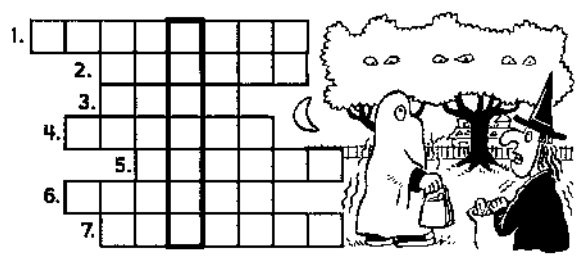


TERPSICHOREAN TESTING TIME! Hidden in the above frame is a famous old saying. You can find it by reading every other letter as you go around it counterclockwise. The trick is finding the right first letter.

Answer: Starting with the "H" in the bottom rail: "He who dances pays the fiddler."

Junior Whirl

by Charles Barry Townsend



Illustrated by David Coulson

ONE WORD WILL DO IT! One five-letter word, added to the end of this equation, will make it correct. You have one minute to find it.

Answer: 99 + 9 = 9 DOZEN

THE "M" PYRAMID! As you move down the word pyramid shown here, each word contains the same letters as the word above it, plus a new letter. We give you all the M's. Here are some hints from the top down:

1. Roman symbol for 1,000.
2. I think, therefore I —.
3. To determine a course.
4. Most important.
5. An excessive interest.
6. Rises above it all.
7. Where boats congregate.
8. Sci-fi characters.

Answers: The words are: M, am, aim, main, mania, aimian, mentans, Martians.

IT'S HALLOWEEN TIME AGAIN!

Here's a word "treat" for you. In the grid above, there is room to enter seven words pertaining to Halloween. The following hints should help.

1. It howls in the night.
2. Sudden, intense fear.
3. Found in belfries.
4. Halloween pranks.
5. They live in empty houses.
6. A piercing cry.
7. Needed for Halloween parties.

There's a dark frame around one of the columns in our grid. If you correctly solve the puzzle, the letters in the frame, top to bottom, will spell out who the high fliers are.

Answers: 1. Werewolf. 2. Fright. 3. Bats. 4. Tricks. 5. Ghosts. 6. Scream. 7. Costume. The dark framed column spells "Witches."

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Strange BUT TRUE

By Samantha Weaver

■ It was French existential philosopher and author Jean-Paul Sartre who made the following observation: "To believe is to know you believe, and to know you believe is not to believe."

■ The opossum is the only marsupial that is native to the continent of North America.

■ Jack Welch was the chairman and CEO of General Electric for 20 years beginning in 1981. When he retired, in 2001, his retirement package (better known these days as a "golden parachute") included such lifetime perks as three country club memberships; a box at the Metropolitan Opera; seats at Wimbledon, the French Open and the U.S. Open; tickets to the Red Sox, the Yankees and the Knicks; free dry-cleaning service; food, wine, flowers and waitstaff whenever he's in New York City; and free telephone and computer service at all five of his homes. Nice deal if you can get it.

■ If you're like the average American, you'll eat about 35,000 cookies in your lifetime.

■ Ever wonder why blue jeans are blue? When they were first designed, by Levi Strauss, the people most likely to wear them were those who did a great deal of manual labor. Strauss rightly assumed the work was likely to be dirty, so he dyed his new trousers indigo to help hide stains.

■ Regular airmail service by the U.S. Post Office began way back in 1918. The first route was between Washington, D.C., and New York City, with a stop along the way in Philadelphia.

■ The name of the North American reindeer known as "caribou" comes from the Native American language Micmac. The word translates roughly as "snow shoveler."

■ ■ ■

Thought for the Day: "Everyone is a genius at least once a year. The real geniuses simply have their bright ideas closer together."—Georg Christoph Lichtenberg

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MAGIC MAZE ● WHITE HOUSE FACTS

G	O	M	K	I	G	E	C	A	Y	W	U	T	S	Q
P	N	I	L	J	H	F	E	C	3	A	Y	F	X	V
U	S	4	Q	R	E	T	A	E	H	T	P	Q	S	N
M	4	7	K	B	I	L	L	I	A	R	D	S	M	G
J	I	W	H	S	L	E	V	E	L	6	F	0	O	N
T	2	I	E	K	V	C	B	Z	Y	X	V	0	O	I
E	D	N	U	A	C	T	S	E	R	C	A	0	R	L
N	O	D	T	R	L	A	S	F	E	H	C	5	2	W
N	O	O	S	M	O	O	R	H	T	A	B	5	3	O
I	R	W	Q	P	O	M	O	T	L	K	I	H	1	B
S	S	S	S	E	C	A	L	P	E	R	I	F	8	2

Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all directions - forward, backward, up, down and diagonally.

132 rooms	35 bathrooms	6 levels	Tennis
147 windows	412 doors	Billiards	Theater
28 fireplaces	5 chefs	Bowling	Track
3 elevators	55,000 sq ft.	Pool	

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GO FIGURE! by Linda Thistle

The idea of Go Figure is to arrive at the figures given at the bottom and right-hand columns of the diagram by following the arithmetic signs in the order they are given (that is, from left to right and top to bottom). Use only the numbers below the diagram to complete its blank squares and use each of the nine numbers only once.

DIFFICULTY: ★

★ Moderate ★★ Difficult
★★★ GO FIGURE!

	x		+		31
+		+		x	
	x		+		17
x		÷		÷	
	x		−		4
22		2		6	

1 2 3 4 5 6 8 9 9

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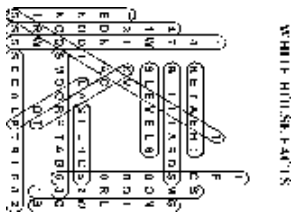
MAGIC MAZE ANSWER



GO FIGURE ANSWER

3	x	9	+	4	31
+		+		x	
8	x	1	+	9	17
x		÷		÷	
2	x	5	−	6	4
22		2		6	

Shih-tzu is biting herself crazy

DEAR PAW'S CORNER: What would make my shih-tzu bite her tail? I noticed that "Mitzy" was constantly trying to nibble her own tail. When I looked closer, I found a hard lump and a small cut that was draining. She bites at it worse at night. Mitzy has no fleas, but she does have dry skin. What's going on?—Alice H., via e-mail

DEAR ALICE: Without knowing exactly where the lump is located, I can't say for certain. It goes without saying that any change in a dog's behavior, or anything odd that you notice on your pet (such as a new lump or a draining cut) should prompt you to visit the veterinarian as soon as possible for a thorough checkup.

Some dogs, regardless of breed, suffer from chronic dry skin. But dry skin can be a herald of a deeper health problem, such as a thyroid condition, which can only be determined through a blood test. So, the best thing to do, again, is mention it to Mitzy's vet when you bring her in to have the lump checked.

The vet may do a biopsy to determine whether the lump is benign. He or she also will ask you a number of questions about Mitzy's daily behavior: how much and how often she eats, if she is drinking and urinating more than usual, if the dry skin has been a problem for a long time or if it's recent, any known food allergies or health problems, and so on.

If there are no underlying problems, the vet may recommend that you try a change in Mitzy's diet (he or she will give you some options) to treat her dry skin. You can also add an Omega 3 supplement to her food —the vet may have this available, or you can purchase the supplement at a pet store.

■ ■ ■

Send your tips, questions and comments to Paws Corner, c/o King Features Weekly Service, P.O. Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475, or e-mail them to pawscorner@hotmail.com.

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Politics, family-style

You can't hide from politics! You may think that with a flick of the switch, you can just turn off those blaring ads over the airwaves, those fired-up pundits protecting their turf on Fox, CNN and talk radio, or those hopeful candidates trying to win favor from the rest of us before Nov. 4.

Well, think again. Your family unit is comprised of some very clever political movers and shakers. I'll show you what I mean. Take this fun little Q & A exercise:

Q: When the World Series goes into extra innings past the kids' bedtime, do they go to the "baseball fan" parent for the extended-hour exception?
If so, there's probably some interest-group politics going on in your home.

Q: When your son comes home with a few scrapes, bruises and a convincing story about what happened on the playground during recess, are you surprised to get a call from the principal's office the next day only to discover your sweet darling may have put a little self-serving twist on his story?
Hmm, sounds like pint-size political spin to me.

Q: Or, when you are driving a van full of kids after a victorious soccer game, has their backseat vote for a stop at the Dairy Queen convincingly trumped your decision to take them directly home?
Now, that's effective lobbying. And if they pooled their extra quarters to buy you a chocolate sundae for the favor, it might smack of bribery!

These true-to-life scenarios got me chuckling and thinking that there might be an ever-present political bug in all of us. As parents, we can use this political season to set an example of good citizenship for young politicians-in-training. Our nation's kids will be future voters in America, and while we may feel like turning our backs on all the hoopla right now as we tire of seeing candidates spouting and sometimes pouting like kids in adult bodies, I believe the issues facing our country are serious matters and worthy of our reflection and discussion around the dinner table.

Keep conversations alive with your thinking and curious kids as you count down to Election Day.

"The grandkids are coming" tip: Dig through your memorabilia drawer for old campaign buttons and stickers. Tell your grandkids about candidates and issues you once supported and why, then vote on a fun activity to do together.

Helpful resource: "EYEWITNESS; VOTE" by Philip Steele (DK Publishing, ages 8 and up) is filled with colorful illustrations and captivating photography of elections, issues and the people who have struggled to bring power to the people. From Ancient Greece and the American Revolution to modern-day elections, this excellent book vibrantly shows why every vote matters.

■ ■ ■

Donna Erickson's award-winning television series "Donna's Day" airs on public television nationwide. Visit www.donnasday.com to find out when it airs on your local PBS station and to sign up for Donna's e-newsletter.

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Life & Style

Police official: Hudson nephew likely died in SUV

CHICAGO (AP)—Detectives believe the 7-year-old nephew of Jennifer Hudson was probably shot in the sport-utility vehicle where his body was later found, a police official said Thursday.

Officials think Julian King was alive when he left the house where his uncle and grandmother were killed last week, said the official, who was not authorized to discuss the case publicly and spoke on condition of anonymity.

The official would not elaborate on when detectives think the boy died.

Police spokeswoman Monique Bond said she could not comment about the official's statements.

The bodies of the singer and Oscar-winning actress' mother, 57-year-old Darnell Donerson, and brother, 29-year-old Jason Hudson, were found Oct. 24 inside their home on Chicago's South Side. Julian's body was discovered Monday in the SUV on the city's West Side. All three had been shot.

Nobody has been charged, but the estranged husband of Julian's mother remained in custody on a parole violation. Police have characterized 27-year-old William Balfour, a convicted felon, as a "person of interest," but the official said he was the only suspect in the slayings.

Balfour, who is Julian's stepfather, had refused to take a lie-detector test and has stopped cooperating with detectives, the official said Wednesday.

It was unclear whether Balfour had an attorney.

Police Superintendent Jody Weis said Thursday that a gun found a day earlier in a vacant lot around the corner from where the SUV had been parked was a .45-caliber weapon. It was sent to Illinois State Police for testing.

Weis said preliminary tests suggest the weapon used was a .45-caliber gun, but tests should determine whether the gun found in the lot was the one used. It will be compared with shell casings found at the Hudson home, he said.

Meanwhile, a funeral home announced Thursday that services for Hudson's mother, brother and nephew will be held Monday morning. The service at Apostolic Church of God on Chicago's South Side will be closed to the public.

Hudson and her sister, Julia Hudson, announced Thursday that they have established the Hudson-King Foundation to provide food, clothing and shelter, along with grief counseling, to relatives of victims of violent crime.

Reeves jury sees paparazzo in action

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Jurors on Thursday got to see the paparazzo suing Keanu Reeves in action.

Reeves' attorneys played a video Thursday from Alison Silva's Web site that showed Silva using his supposedly damaged left hand to hold onto razor wire atop a fence to shoot video of Britney Spears. Silva then used his left hand to scale down the fence.

The video was made after Silva fell while shooting photos of Reeves behind the wheel of his Porsche in March 2007. Silva contends he seriously injured his wrist, which caused him to miss work for at least six months. He furthers contends he needs a second surgery to properly heal.

Even then, the Brazilian-born paparazzo and his doctors contend he will not be able to grip objects, such as his camera, properly.

After the video was shown Thursday, Silva, who has spent part of the last three days on the witness stand, was unapologetic.

"That was a good video," he told Reeves' attorney, Mark M. Williams.

Silva contended Thursday that he has given up shooting with a still camera and now exclusively uses a handheld video camera with his right hand.

And he still climbs fences, he conceded. "Yes, we do that a lot times," Silva said.

Silva's statements have been repeatedly contradicted by documents and testimony since the civil trial began Monday.

AP

Actor Keanu Reeves leaves the Stanley Mosk Courthouse in Los Angeles on Monday, Oct 27, 2008. A jury has been seated in a paparazzo's civil trial against Reeves.

Obama campaign uses star power to court volunteers

RALEIGH, N.C. (AP)—Edie Falco is fidgeting and looks nervous. The star of "The Sopranos" admits to her North Carolina audience that she's a product of lower Manhattan who barely understands voters above 14th Street. She talks for just five minutes and never mentions John McCain or George Bush.

"I've never had any intentions of trying to change anybody's mind," says Falco, a Barack Obama supporter. "I've heard a lot of celebrities talking about politics who, in my estimation, are not qualified to do so."

She adds, "Frankly, I'm embarrassed sometimes that they are representing my ilk, if you will."

For the seemingly endless number of celebrities who back Obama, trying to persuade people who already support the Illinois senator to volunteer for his campaign is as important as swaying undecided voters.

Four years ago, rocker Bruce Springsteen was the face of celebrity politics, making his first public endorsement of a candidate with a column in The New York Times before leading a series of swing-state concerts to urge a vote for Democratic nominee John Kerry.

Beatles music to be in new video game

AP

In this Feb. 9, 1964 file photo, The Beatles perform on the CBS "Ed Sullivan Show" in New York.

NEW YORK (AP)—The Beatles are coming to a game console near you.

For the first time, the legendary group's music will be featured in the lucrative video game market in a deal with MTV Games and Harmonix, creators of the "Rock Band" series. The game is scheduled to make its debut in time for next year's holiday season

"The project is a fun idea which broadens the appeal of The Beatles and their music. I like people having the opportunity to get to know the music from the inside out," Paul McCartney said in a statement.

The game will not be titled "Rock Band," but will work with the existing instruments - a guitar, drums and microphone. Game developers were cagey about whether new instruments, such as a keyboard, would be incorporated.

In Loving Memory of our beloved

Leonardo Deleon Guerrero Camacho

Born on February 29, 1936 and called to eternal rest on October 28, 2008

Predeceased by:
Parents: †Juan Compos and †Soledad Deleon Guerrero Camacho
Parents in Law: †Jose D. and †Ana L. Takai
Son: †Lawrence T. Camacho
Brothers and Sisters: †Jose Deleon Guerrero Camacho, †Rosalia C. Flores, and †Magdalena C. Benavente
Brothers in Law: †Jose L. Takai and †Bobby Danford

Survived by:
Spouse: Rita T. Camacho
Children:
Irene T. Camacho (Soledad Camacho (Iyana))
Maria C. & Jesse Arizala (Jerlisa, Jessica (Clarisa), Christopher)
Joanne T. Camacho (Sydney (Leoney and Cody), Steven/Caroline (Javin), Jaclyn, Nathan)
John T. Camacho &Stephanie Aulerio (Regina, Keoni, Zoranelle)
Joseph T. Camacho & Rose Gibbons (Jocelyn, Lawrence, Ria)
†Lawrence T. Camacho (Leisha, Leonardo)
William T. Camacho &Valerie S. Camacho (Kaliko, Shanice, Jesse)
Rodney T. Camacho & Carmen C. Camacho (Ronie Cherise)

Brothers, Sister & In Laws:
Marcelino Dlg. & Cecilia T. Camacho, Francisco Dlg. & Victoria B. Camacho, Margarita C. Sablan

Brothers and Sisters in Law:
Carlos L. & Trinidad T. Takai, Fina Takai, Oscar L. & Sinforosa C. Takai, Salvador L. & Remedio A. Takai, Eluterio L. & Magdena L. Takai, Juan L. & Rosie F. Takai, Ramon L.& Juanita I. Takai, Dolore T. & Gregorio Arriola, Mathida L. Takai, Pablo L. Takai, Dorothea T. Danford

Morning mass is being offered at 6am at Kristo Rai Church followed by nightly rosary at 7pm.

On Wednesday, November 5th, 2008, the remains will be escorted from Nuestra Senora dela Paz Memorial Chapel to Our Lady of Mount Carmel Cathedral at 7am followed by Responso Service at 8am. Mass of Christian Burial will be held at 10:30am. Interment service will follow at Chalan Kanoa Catholic Cemetery.

Dangkulo na si yu'us maase. Thank you for your prayers.

Ginen I Familia

Nielsen: 33.6 million watch Obama's infomercial

AP

In this image from video provided by the Obama Campaign, Democratic presidential candidate Sen. Barack Obama., speaks during a 30-minute infomercial broadcasted on prime-time television Wednesday, Oct. 29, 2008.

NEW YORK (AP)—Nielsen Media Research estimated that 33.6 million people watched Barack Obama's half-hour television commercial Wednesday night.

The spot ran simultaneously on CBS, NBC, Fox, BET, Univision, MSNBC and TV One, and aides said it cost the campaign roughly $4 million. It profiled several Americans struggling with a tough economy, and Obama offered his ideas for a turnaround.

Toward the end of his 1992 campaign for president, Ross Perot ran a half-hour infomercial that was watched by 22.7 million people, according to Nielsen.

ABC did not run Obama's commercial, instead showing "Pushing Daisies," which was slightly helped by the lack of entertainment competition. The drama was seen Wednesday by 6.6 million people; its season average is 5.9 million.

Obama's spot had its biggest audience on NBC, with 7.7 million viewers.

Two months ago, Obama was seen by more than 40 million people when he delivered his acceptance speech at the Democratic National Convention in Denver. That speech was carried live on 12 networks.

The Democratic candidate also proved a late-night draw on Wednesday. "The Daily Show" on Comedy Central had a record 3.6 million viewers, when Obama was interviewed by satellite from Florida by Jon Stewart. It shattered the show's previous mark by 700,000 viewers—set earlier in the month when Obama's wife, Michelle, appeared.

"The Colbert Report" also had record ratings, when Stephen Colbert's character endorsed Obama, saying he was doing it for the attention.

Neil Young cancels concert in LA

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Neil Young decided he wouldn't be "Rockin' in the Free World" at The Forum in Los Angeles on Thursday night.

He canceled his concert rather than cross a picket line scheduled to form there during the show.

The 62-year-old rocker-activist says he was told a local faction of the International Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employees union planned to picket the show.

Young and his wife are honorary lifetime members of the union, which is striking against The Forum's owner, Faithful Central Bible Church, because of contract disputes.

Young, whose hits include 1989's "Rockin' in the Free World," says he is "extremely disappointed to have to choose between satisfying my fans or backing my brothers and sisters of the IATSE."

ACM names Strait artist of the decade

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP)—George Strait will receive the Academy of Country Music's Artist of the Decade award in recognition of his nearly 25-year career.

Only four other acts have received the distinction: Marty Robbins in 1969, Loretta Lynn in 1979, Alabama in 1988 and Garth Brooks in 1998.

Strait's many hits include "Amarillo By Morning," "Ocean Front Property," "Check Yes or No" and "I Saw God Today."

The ACM will tape a TV special in honor of Strait at the MGM Grand Garden Arena in Las Vegas on April 6 to air at a later date.

The 44th annual ACM awards will air live on CBS from the MGM Grand on April 5 with Reba McEntire hosting.

AP

In this Nov. 7, 2007 file photo, George Strait performs at the 41st Annual Country Music Association Awards in Nashville, Tenn.

Randy Newman postpones European tour

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Randy Newman is postponing his 18-date European tour.

The 64-year-old "I Love L.A" and "I Love to See You Smile" singer-songwriter cited "physical limitations and severe pain caused by stenosis in the lower back and neck," a statement posted Thursday on his Web site said.

The European tour was scheduled to begin Saturday in Berlin.

"I deeply regret not being able to come," the multiple Grammy and Oscar winner said. "I like it so much in Europe, and I've always been treated so well. I'll get there as soon as I can."

The tour was in support of "Harps and Angels," Newman's first collection of new material in nine years.

Details of rescheduled dates will be announced later.

Juror injury halts testimony in retrial of Spector

LOS ANGELES (AP)—The first day of testimony in Phil Spector's murder retrial was canceled Thursday after an alternate juror fell in the court parking lot and broke his foot.

Superior Court Judge Larry Paul Fidler said he spoke with the juror, who wanted to get medical attention and return Monday. The trial is not in session on Fridays.

The judge said he was reluctant to lose an alternate juror this early in the retrial for the 68-year-old music producer and would await the man's return. Six alternates were previously selected to be available in case a regular juror has to leave.

The first scheduled witness, retired New York City police Detective Vincent Tannazzo, was in court ready to testify and was ordered to return Monday.

Spector lawyer Doron Weinberg said in his opening statement that he would show Tannazzo "is not who he says he is."

Tannazzo testified at the first murder trial that Spector had been ejected from two Manhattan Christmas parties given in the early 1990s by comedian Joan Rivers after yelling obscenities against women and shouting, "They all deserve a bullet in their heads."

Weinberg called the claim "preposterous" and said the words were never spoken.

Desire to comfort widower goes beyond friendship

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

DearAbby

DEAR ABBY: A few months ago a longtime friend and business associate I'll call "Brian" lost his wife. They had been married for nine years. Brian and I have shared many conversations over the years and know details of each other's lives. He's a remarkable person with outstanding values and a wonderful heart.

I have been legally separated for a year and am in the process of getting a divorce.

I feel terrible for Brian. I know he loved his wife and was committed to her. I feel an overwhelming desire to comfort him, but have held back because it might be a problem because of our circumstances. We have much in common and really enjoy each other's company, and I do feel drawn to him. But I don't want people talking negatively about us, as if there were something going on.

How can I let Brian know I'd like to be there for him without revealing that I would like more? I realize it is inappropriate to infringe on his period of mourning, but I would like him to know I have a genuine interest in him.

FROM A DISTANCE

DEAR FROM A DISTANCE: It would not be an infringement on this man's period of mourning to pick up the phone, tell him you heard the sad news about his wife's passing and offer your deepest sympathy for his loss, because you know how devoted he and his wife were to each other. It would also not be an infringement to invite him for a home-cooked meal if he wants one.

But don't be surprised if he tells you the last thing he needs is a home-cooked meal because these days, when an eligible man is widowed, the eligible ladies are often not as restrained as you are, and line up at the widower's door within days of the funeral. "The early bird gets the worm."

■■■

DEAR ABBY: May I pass on some information that may be helpful to your readers? I work at a mail-processing center.

Some people use the self-addressed envelopes sent to them by businesses and organizations for other purposes. These envelopes have bar codes on them. When people recycle them, they cross out the organization's name and address but forget to cross out the bar code. Therefore, the envelope gets sent to the business that provided it, rather than to the party to whom it has been readdressed.

Sometimes this happens even after the bar code has been blackened out. We have received tax payments, personal letters, credit card payments—you name it. We do return this mail to the post office, but I am sure it takes a while for it to get to the correct address. I feel bad for people having to endure the delay this causes.

My advice: If you must use these envelopes, please make sure you completely cover up or black out the original bar code.

TRYING TO HELP IN ILLINOIS

DEAR TRYING TO HELP: You are helping. I am sure many of my thrifty readers will thank you for the heads-up.

■■■

DEAR READERS: It's time for my "timely" reminder that Daylight Saving Time ends at 2 this Sunday morning. Don't forget to turn your clocks back one hour tonight when you go to bed. (That's what I'll be doing!)

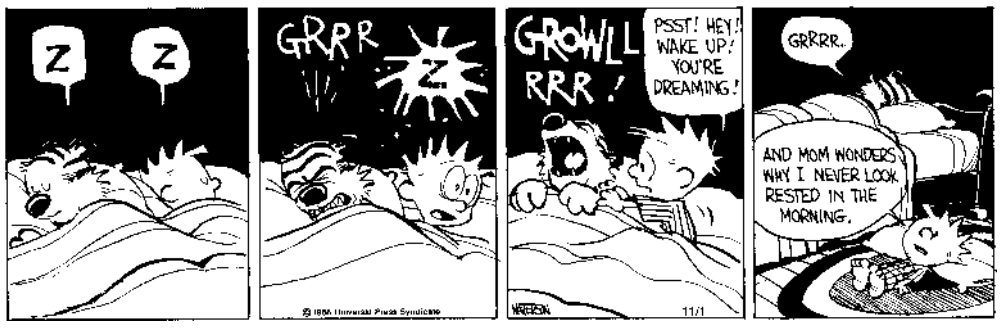
Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

What teens need to know about sex, drugs, AIDS and getting along with peers and parents is in "What Every Teen Should Know." To order, send a business-sized, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for $6 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby – Teen Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included in the price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

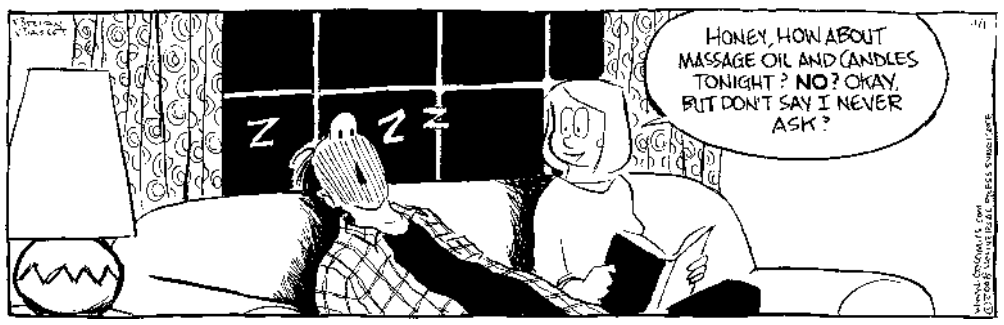


Garfield®

By Jim Davis

Adam@home

By Bryan Basset



The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

SORRY 'BOUT THE WAIT. I'M READY TO TAKE YOUR ORDER NOW. CAN I START YOU OFF WITH AN APPETIZER?
(MUNCH) NO THANKS. (MUNCH, MUNCH) I'M GOOD.
WHAT'S THAT YOU'RE EATING?
YOUR TIP!

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

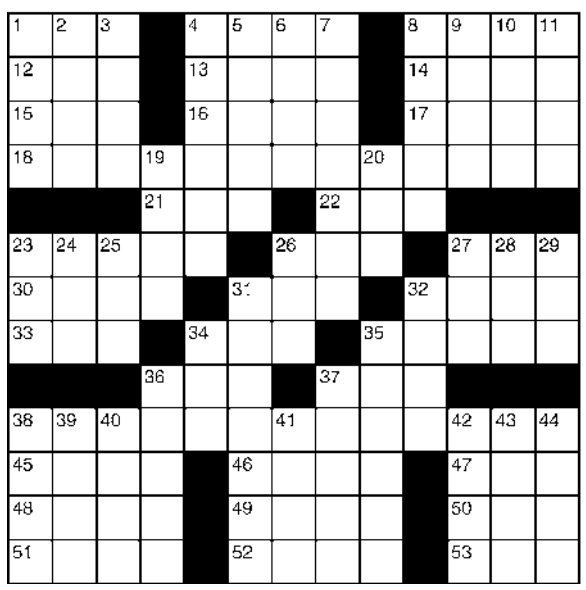
ACROSS
1 Took a meeting
4 Lip
8 Quite
12 Blunder
13 What a stent may prevent
14 Lotion additive
15 Expert
16 Earthenware pot
17 Facts and figures
18 Alice's charges
21 Gelid
22 Dispensable candy
23 — Jessica Parker
26 Shuffleboard stick
27 Clump
30 Currier's partner
31 Write in the margins
32 Frat party garb
33 Deleted
34 Broom closet item
35 Bering Sea feeder
36 Homer's exclamation
37 Partake at a buffet
38 Acting based on guesswork
45 Eastern princess
46 Mediocre
47 Raw rock
48 Shakespeare's river
49 Sandwich treat
50 Vast expanse
51 Yin counterpart
52 Capone foe
53 Still

DOWN
1 Membership
2 St. Louis landmark
3 Genealogy chart
4 Ironing mishap
5 Relieve
6 Auctioneer's call
7 Don't move
8 Liechtenstein's capital
9 Verve
10 Campus mil. grp.
11 Slangy affirmative
19 Prejudice
20 Apiary denizen
23 Pack quantity
24 "Hail, Caesar!"
25 Blushing
26 Filch
27 Moo goo gai pan pan
28 "... and seven years —"
29 Roseanne's TV hubby
31 Lincoln successor
32 Ballet frill
34 Miss Piggy's pronoun
35 Boorish types
36 Desperately longing (to)
37 Makes less stressful
38 Beseech
39 Volcano outflow
40 Unsigned (Abbr.)
41 "An Inconvenient Truth" VIP
42 Inquisitive
43 Algonquian language
44 Ardor

Solution time: 27 mins.

A	S	S	■	H	A	M	■	D	U	E	L	S
O	W	E	■	I	T	O	■	A	L	G	A	E
R	.	P	■	G	H	O	S	T	T	O	W	N
T	N	T	■	H	O	S	E	A	■	■	■	■
A	G	A	R	■	M	E	X	■	B	O	Z	O
■	■	■	E	E	E	■	Y	A	R	R	O	W
I	A	M	B	S	■	■	G	A	B	O	N	■
S	.	R	J	C	K	■	V	O	W	■	■	■
M	E	S	S	■	I	C	E	■	L	A	K	E
■	■	■	S	I	A	H	S	■	B	R	A	■
W	.	T	C	H	H	U	N	T	■	H	O	R
A	L	O	H	A	■	S	O	U	■	O	N	E
G	L	E	A	M	■	E	N	D	■	R	E	D

Yesterday's answer 11-1



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: La Tavia Roberson, 27; Aishwarya Rai, 35; Jenny McCarthy, 36; Lyle Lovett, 51

Happy Birthday: Finding new ways to do old things will lead to your success. This is your year to prosper, not a time to contemplate past mistakes. You have paid many times, so now you should move forward. Your responsibilities are changing and it's clear for all to see: You mean business and will not stop until you reach your destination. Your numbers are 9, 14, 21, 26, 34, 36, 41

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): Get away and enjoy new surroundings. A weekend with old friends or with new acquaintances who have similar interests will do you a world of good and make you realize what's important. Love is in the stars. ✪✪✪✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): Look for a financial mistake that could cost you in the future if you don't change it promptly. A responsibility for a child, parent or partner will limit what you can and cannot do professionally. ✪✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): You'll have to be at your best if you want things to run smoothly. Reevaluate a partnership you are in. Don't make a snap decision but be prepared to call it a day and walk away from an unsatisfactory situation. ✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): Not everyone will see things your way. Gossip will spread if you are difficult or refuse to compromise. Get moving and do what's expected of you before someone complains. Once you put things behind you, enjoy your day. ✪✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): Set your goals and put your challenges in place. The more invigorating your day is, the better you will perform. Work your magic on the people who can help you and you will be victorious. ✪✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): A short jaunt to a place you find inspirational will help you come up with some good ideas and solutions to existing problems. Someone you love will spring news that will not sit right. Don't let your true feelings be known. ✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): Pleasure trips, getting together with friends or planning a street party will all lead to some interesting times. A talk with someone you find unique will give you a different view of a situation you are going through. ✪✪✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): Consider if you are currently moving in the best direction. What you want to do should be the basis for any changes you decide to implement. If you don't enjoy what you are doing, you will never excel. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): Stop second-guessing what you are doing because of what others say or think. Your own uncertainty will leave you powerless when the time comes to make a change. So sort out in your own mind what it is you want to do. ✪✪✪

CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): This is not the time for secrets. If you try to hide your whereabouts or your plans, someone will put you in a difficult position. Reveal the basic idea of what you are doing and you can talk your way through any situation without opposition. ✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): A proposal is coming down the pipeline that could get you out of a rut and into something substantial. Discuss the possibilities of going into business or taking on a position being created that is perfect for you. ✪✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): Don't let love get you down. Not everyone will complement your style, so consider moving on. Money is in the stars and collecting an old debt, winning something or being given a gift is evident. ✪✪

Birthday Baby: One minute you are the playful adventurer and the next the determined do-gooder. You can control, manipulate and outsmart with your mysterious yet witty performance.

Eugenia's Web sites: ***astroadvice.com*** *for fun,* ***eugenialast.com*** *for confidential consultations*

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

2			6					8
		6		4				
			9				4	
						9		3
	5		7	1	9		2	
7		4						
	8				5			
				3		1		
1					4			6

Difficulty Level ★★★★ 11/01

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

5	9	1	2	6	7	3	4	8
7	2	4	9	3	8	6	1	5
6	3	8	4	1	5	2	9	7
4	6	2	7	9	3	8	5	1
3	1	5	8	4	2	9	7	6
9	8	7	1	5	6	4	2	3
1	7	6	3	2	9	5	8	4
2	4	3	5	8	1	7	6	9
8	5	9	6	7	4	1	3	2

Difficulty Level ★★★★ 10/31

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

CHICK FLICKS **Solution: 10 letters**

F	F	S	E	C	I	S	S	A	L	C	T	S	E	C
E	D	V	T	P	A	S	S	I	O	N	S	E	G	H
E	O	I	G	R	O	U	P	N	E	I	S	N	A	A
L	L	E	V	F	A	H	T	M	L	A	I	D	M	R
I	A	H	M	I	E	E	O	B	N	R	K	E	I	A
N	N	C	O	E	N	M	H	O	A	F	F	A	R	C
G	O	I	V	T	H	E	I	C	A	R	E	R	O	T
S	I	L	I	I	R	T	N	N	R	I	M	M	N	E
T	T	C	E	O	C	A	T	Y	I	E	A	E	I	R
O	O	O	I	A	L	A	U	G	H	N	L	N	C	S
L	M	N	R	B	S	M	A	E	R	D	E	T	I	M
E	E	T	A	Y	L	I	M	A	F	S	S	T	G	L
M	T	S	I	S	T	E	R	H	O	O	D	A	A	I
A	A	M	A	R	D	O	L	E	(M)	(O)	(O)	(D)	M	F
C	O	N	T	E	M	P	O	R	A	R	Y	L	E	S

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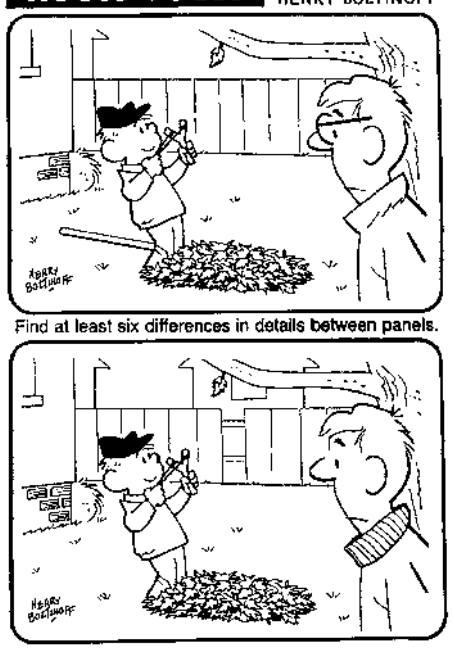
Attraction, Bliss, Camelot, Caring, Casablanca, Characters, Classic, Cliche, Contemporary, Content, Divine, Dreams, Emotional, Endearment, Family, Fantasy, Feelings, Females, Feminine, Films, Friends, Group, Hearts, Heroine, Hope, Image, Ironic, Kiss, Laugh, Love, Magic, Melodrama, Moment, Mood, Movie, Passion, Sisterhood, Story, Theme

Yesterday's Answer: Mosquito

HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF



Find at least six differences in details between panels.

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Differences: 1. Eyeglasses are missing. 2. Man's collar is different. 3. House has been added. 4. Fence slat is missing. 5. Rake is missing. 6. Bricks have been added.

Wishing Well®

5	4	5	6	2	4	5	4	7	3	7	6	8
Y	D	O	P	G	I	U	F	A	L	N	L	A
5	7	5	4	7	3	2	7	5	8	5	2	3
D	A	E	F	L	O	O	Y	L	S	I	A	V
4	3	4	5	8	5	4	6	3	4	3	6	5
I	E	C	G	W	H	U	E	E	L	N	A	T
8	7	4	3	7	2	6	8	5	6	5	6	7
E	Z	T	D	E	H	S	E	O	E	T	A	A
3	7	5	4	7	6	4	3	5	4	7	4	8
U	C	H	I	T	F	E	R	E	S	I	R	T
5	8	5	2	4	3	6	3	4	2	4	6	4
R	L	S	E	E	E	R	S	S	A	O	I	L
2	6	4	7	6	4	8	4	7	8	7	6	8
D	E	V	O	N	E	I	D	N	F	S	D	E

HERE IS A PLEASANT LITTLE GAME that will give you a message every day. It's a numerical puzzle designed to spell out your fortune. Count the letters in your first name. If the number of letters is 6 or more, subtract 4. If the number is less than 6, add 3. The result is your key number. Start at the upper left-hand corner and check one of your key numbers, left to right. Then read the message the letters under the checked figures give you.

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Super Crossword

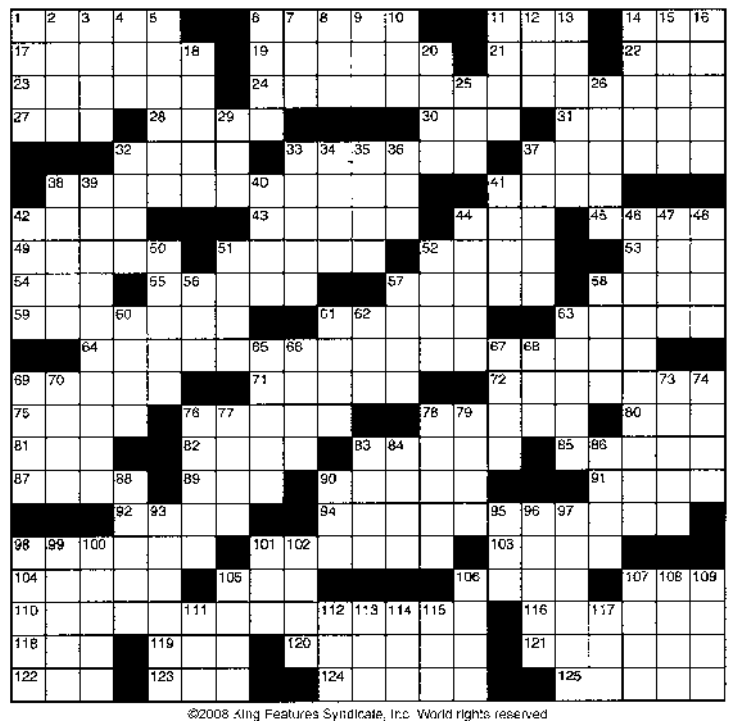
BELIEVE IT OR NOT

ACROSS

1 "Dracula" prop
6 — mignon
11 Roast beef au —
14 Enjoy the Alps
17 Tropical treat
19 Classical hunk?
21 A Turner
22 Another Turner
23 Toed the line
24 Start of a remark by 38 Across
27 Prom wear
28 Idle
30 Fury
31 "Garfield" cartoonist
32 Shalit or Siskel
33 Ned of "Deliverance"
37 Stir up
38 Speaker of remark
41 Carrey title star
42 Windmill part
43 Violinist Mischa
44 Singer Scaggs
45 Cabbage concoction
49 Aquatic animal
51 Bodybuilder Charles
52 "— Show" ('94 film)
53 Private pension
54 Robert of "Quincy, M.E."
55 Restive
57 Trumpeter Berigan
58 Explorer Hedin
59 '68 Tom Jones hit
61 Shatter
63 — suit
64 Part 2 of remark
69 Raid
71 Sinuous dances
72 Jihad
75 Verve
76 Posada of baseball
78 Thin porridge
80 Thurman of "The Avengers"
81 Deighton or Dawson
82 Blows away
83 Isaac's mom
85 Remove varnish
87 Lug
89 Morning moisture
90 Comic Sherman
91 "— It a Pity?" ('70 song)
92 Got older
94 Part 3 of remark
98 Yearned
101 Titania's hubby
103 "Java" man?
104 Tom of "Adam's Rib"
105 Woody herb
106 With 107 Down, "Chocolat" actress
107 Kimono closer
110 End of remark
116 Like some recordings
118 Out — limb
119 Gumshoe
120 Update a story
121 Ida of "The Sea Wolf"
122 Fashion monogram
123 Symbol of sturdiness
124 "Jane Eyre" character
125 Marcia mister

DOWN

1 Primer pooch
2 Forbidden
3 Summit
4 Kyser or Starr
5 Ornamental opening
6 Comic Joey
7 Wedding words
8 "Hulk" Ferrigno
9 SASE, e.g.
10 Mowry of "Sister, Sister"
11 Be in accord
12 Luau instrument
13 Rarely
14 Martin or McQueen
15 Actor Sorbo
16 What i.e. stands for
18 Hersey setting
20 Tizzy
25 Strive
26 Whittier's feet
29 Buddhist movement
32 Merriment
33 Beer storage?
34 Humorist Bombeck
35 Cry of concern
36 Dress size
37 Like a peach
38 Photo finish
39 Narrow-minded
40 One of the Marches
41 Rub out
42 Nullify
44 Swindle
46 Sausage type
47 Precinct
48 Lack
50 Bendix role
51 "— Breaky Heart" ('92 hit)
52 Wharf
56 Prepare to feather?
57 Seeks change?
58 Fluctuate
60 Tenor Kozlovsky
61 Peevishness
62 Genetic info
63 Venoa
65 Flung
66 Warm embraces
67 "No dice!"
68 Farm tool
69 Crafter's cloth
70 Toast topper
73 — acid
74 All ears
76 Too experienced
77 Had bills
78 Bit of a beach
79 Be bombastic
83 Disparage
84 Palo —, CA
86 Cast
88 Scout rank
90 Presidential nickname
93 Trattoria treat
95 Heifer or hen
96 Last
97 Telescope sighting
98 Croce's Mr. Brown
99 "Hee Haw" host Buck
100 Mount Everest's locale
101 Absent
102 Grumpy guy
105 Singer Springfield
106 Alzado of football
107 See 106 Across
108 Pro — (free)
109 Perpetual lab assistant
111 Soho snack
112 PBS benefactor
113 Accounting abbr.
114 Tiny
115 "— of You" ('84 hit)
117 "Tarzan" extra



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Trivia test

by Fifi Rodriguez

1. AD SLOGANS: What product tempted consumers with the advertising slogan "Betcha can't eat just one."
2. LANGUAGE: What does the word "Volkswagen" mean in German?
3. LITERATURE: What was the title of Shakespeare's last solo play?
4. TELEVISION: What city was the setting in the TV comedy "Eight is Enough"?
5. U.S. PRESIDENTS: Who gave the bride away when Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt were married?
6. FAMOUS QUOTES: Who said, "The only way to have a friend is to be one."
7. PSYCHOLOGY: What is venustraphobia?
8. MOVIES: What was the name of the caretaker's cat in the "Harry Potter" movies?
9. MUSIC: What name did Simon & Garfunkel go by earlier in their music careers?
10. BIBLE: How long did Methuselah live, according to the Book of Genesis?

Answers

1. Lay's potato chips
2. People's car
3. "The Tempest"
4. Sacramento
5. Teddy Roosevelt, her uncle
6. Ralph Waldo Emerson
7. A fear of beautiful women
8. Mrs. Norris
9. Tom & Jerry
10. 969 years

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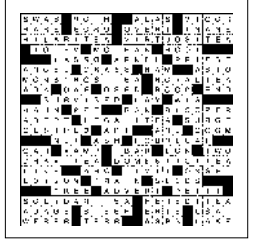
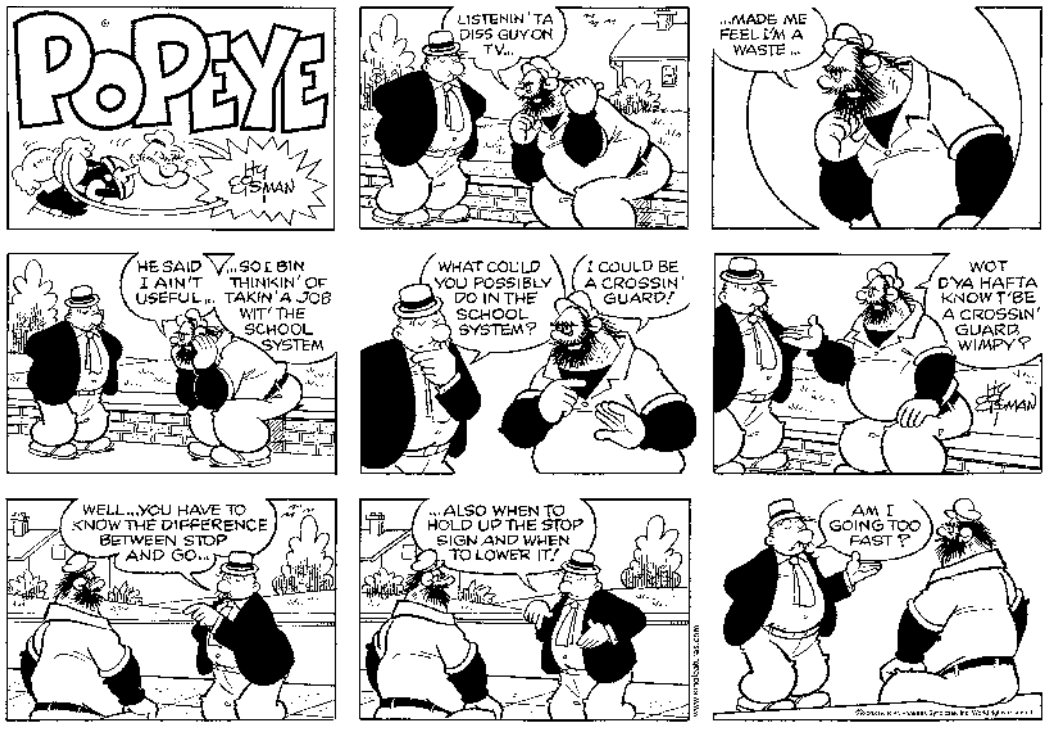
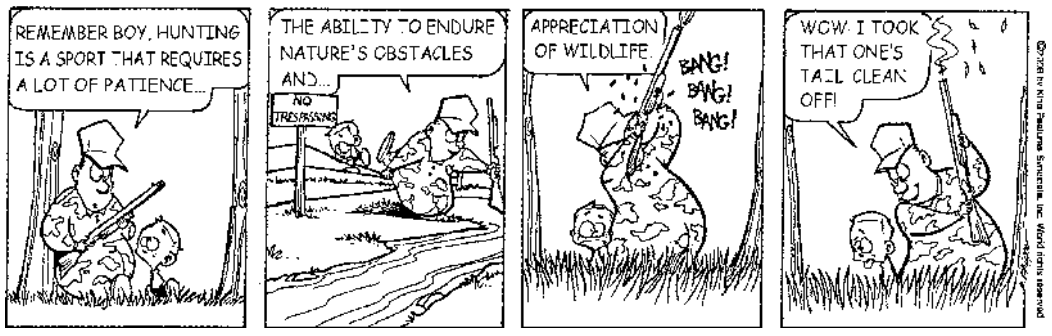
Saturday's Answers

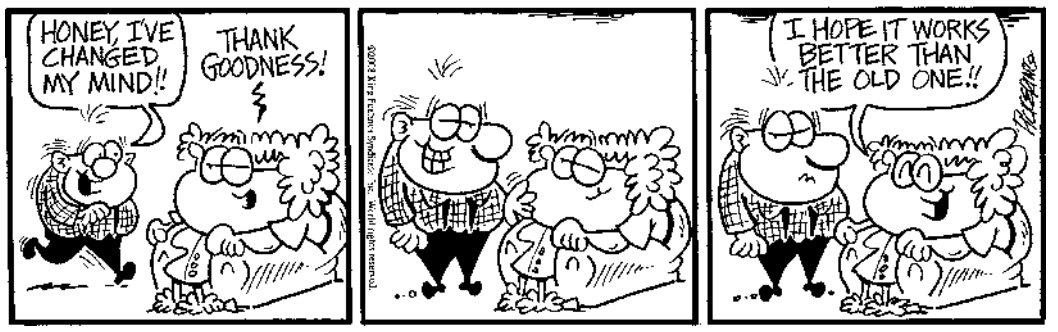



POPEYE
HEY EISMAN
LISTENIN' TA DISS GUY ON TV...
...MADE ME FEEL I'M A WASTE ...
HE SAID I AIN'T USEFUL ...
...SO I BIN THINKIN' OF TAKIN' A JOB WIT' THE SCHOOL SYSTEM
WHAT COULD YOU POSSIBLY DO IN THE SCHOOL SYSTEM?
I COULD BE A CROSSIN' GUARD!
WOT D'YA HAFTA KNOW T'BE A CROSSIN' GUARD, WIMPY?
WELL ...YOU HAVE TO KNOW THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN STOP AND GO...
...ALSO WHEN TO HOLD UP THE STOP SIGN AND WHEN TO LOWER IT!
AM I GOING TOO FAST?

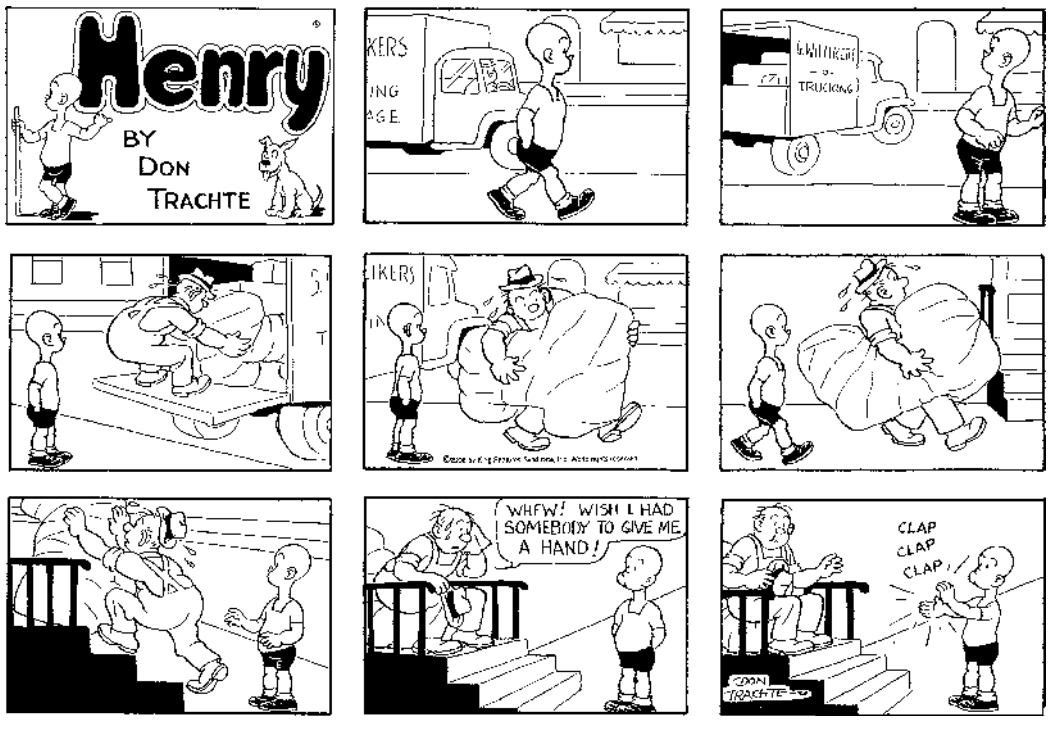
Amber Waves by Dave T. Phipps


REMEMBER BOY, HUNTING IS A SPORT THAT REQUIRES A LOT OF PATIENCE...
THE ABILITY TO ENDURE NATURE'S OBSTACLES AND...
NO TRESPASSING
APPRECIATION OF WILDLIFE.
BANG! BANG! BANG!
WOW! I TOOK THAT ONE'S TAIL CLEAN OFF!

The Spats by Jeff Pickering



MARK TRAIL
SPIDERS BELONG TO THE ARACHNID FAMILY, WHICH ALSO INCLUDES SCORPIONS, TICKS, MITES, DADDY LONGLEGS AND HORSESHOE CRABS
ALL SPIDERS POSSESS SPINNERETS FOR MAKING FINE SILK STRANDS USED TO BUILD WEBS, SAFETY LINES, EGG COCOONS AND TRAPS, AND TO LINE BURROWS AND WRAP UP PREY
SPIDERS ARE AMONG THE MOST EFFICIENT OF NATURE'S PEST EXTERMINATORS
IT HAS BEEN ESTIMATED THAT ON ONE ACRE OF GROUND THERE ARE WELL OVER 2,000,000 OF THESE SMALL HUNTERS
THE VARIOUS KINDS OF SPIDERS ARE BUSY 24 HOURS A DAY RUNNING DOWN, POUNCING ON, TRAPPING, AND EVEN LASSOING THE INSECT HORDES THAT SWARM OVER THE COUNTRYSIDE
AND AS MUCH AS WE DISLIKE SEEING THEM, THEY ARE AMONG OUR MOST BENEFICIAL CREATURES
YACK FLOOD



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CLASSIFIEDS RATES AND POLICIES

Saipan Tribune's Classifieds Section gives you the right exposure without hurting your pockets. Stretch your dollar and get results.

CLASSIFIED ADS

Saipan Tribune also offers a Super Saver Package—a complete 7-day run on both print and online edition, for as low as $25 per 3 liner ad for garage sales, apartment rentals, help wanted, auto and more. You can choose from any of below packages that fits your budget.

ADS (7DAYS)	COMBO (PRINT AND ONLINE)
• 3-Liner	**$25**
• 5-Liner	**$35**
• 3-Liner with picture	**$45**
• 5-Liner with picture	**$55**

ADVERTISING DEADLINE

Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

Saturday And Sunday Issues:

- *Saipan Tribune:* All ads placed Friday before 12 noon will come out Saturday issue and anything placed thereafter will be published on either Sunday or Monday issues.

CANCELLATION

Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

CHECK YOUR ADS

Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

ADVERTISING POLICY

All advertising in the *Saipan Tribune* are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

WANTED

CONSTRUCTION WORKER
PART TIME OR FULL TIME
$5.00 / HR
285-2649

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Name: Li, Baofang
Passport No: G09853584
Type of Passport: China
Date of Birth: Sept. 23, 1981

If found, please call
285-0099.

PETER MICHAEL P. TENORIO
JACQUELINE GONZALES TENORIO
P.O. BOX 500486
Saipan, MP 96950
Telephone: (670) 288-8366

PRO SE

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

IN THE MATTER OF THE ADOPTION OF:	FCD-AD CASE NO. 07-0572
EXEQUIEL GONZALES, minor child,	NOTICE OF HEARING
BY: PETER MICHAEL P. TENORIO AND JAQUELINE GONZALES TENORIO, Petitioners.	

The petition of PETER MICHAEL P. TENORIO and JACQUELINE GONZALES TENORIO, seeking the adoption of the minor child, EXEQUIEL GONZALES, has been set for hearing before the Superior Court, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, on the 20th day of November, 2008 at the hour of 1:30pm.

Any person who has any objection to this petition may file his or her objection with the Superior Court at any time before the hearing, or may appear at the time set for hearing to present such objection or interest in the above-captioned matter.

Dated this 24th day of October, 2008.

/s/ **DEPUTY CLERK OF COURT**
Superior Court of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

Viola Alepuyo, CNMI Bar No. F0316
Attornery-at-Law
2nd Floor, J.E.Tenorio Bldg., Gualo Rai
P.O. Box 5506 CHRB
Saipan, MP 96950
Tel.: (670) 233-8535/8536/8537
Fax.: (670) 233-8538

Attorney for Petitioners

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

IN RE ADOPTION OF EDWARD SUNJOON KIM-HOUGHTON and MELVIN SUNHO KIM, Minor Children, by PERRY JOHN PANGELINAN TENORIO Petitioner.	FCD-AD CASE NO. 08-0650 NOTICE OF HEARING

NOTICE is hereby given that a Petition for Adoption was filed in the above entitled Court. A hearing has been set for the above-entitled matter and will be held in Courtroom 205A of the Commonwealth Superior Court, located at the House of Justice-Guma Hustisia-Imwal Aweewe, Susupe, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands at 1:30 p.m. on the 21st day of November, 2008.

Dated this 1st day of November, 2008.

/s/ **Deputy Clerk of Court**

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Fina Sisu Apt., 2-BR, FF, AC, 24-hr pwr./water, security, laundry room, free Wi-Fi & ample parking. MIHA applicants accepted. Right behind NMC campus. Special rates for NMC faculty/ students. Call 235-6527/8 or 285-1317 for info.

Apartment room for rent: Fully furnished 1 brm, T/B, 24-hr water $210/month, near Conwood | Tel. 287-1372, 235-6748

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Kinghua Auto Parts Center, Koblerville (next to Shell Station across Phil. Eagle Autoshop) For any info-pls. call Danny Siu @ 287-2387

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For Rent-New apartment/Studio type $200/mo. Brand new. Fully furnished. Finasisu (across NMC). Please call Danny Siu @ 287-2387

GARAGE/YARD SALE

OFF ISLAND SALE: Generator $450 mtn bike $125 kayak $300 lg sofa $300 loveseat $150 lounge chair $125 metal shelves $100 king bed/mat $350 full futon $100. Lighting, appliances, tools, hardware and more. Priced to sale. 233.0367 or sunmove2008@live.com

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2 Commercial Space for Rent. One 2000 sq.ft. & One 1000 sq.ft. Garapan area across Treasure Island Game Club. Contact Emil De Belen @ 483-3645/233-5100

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Guard files sex harassment suit vs principal. PAGE 3
2 hurt in Puerto Rico vehicular crash. PAGE 5
There is still hope for nonimmigrant statu
joins Micronesia Summ
OPINION METER
This week's poll:
With what you know of the CUC situation, do you support the adoption of new regulatio
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New labor law includes best practices from US experience' PAGE 6

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235- NEWS

Mayor wants good behavior at World Series parade

PHILADELPHIA (AP)—Many baseball fans here would not speak the "P" word in the anxious days leading up to the city's World Series title, lest they jinx the team. But now that the Philadelphia Phillies have claimed their second championship, everyone is talking about a parade.

Hundreds of thousands of people could crowd the sidewalks on Friday to cheer the city's first national sports title in 25 years. A hundred thousand more are expected to pack the baseball and football stadiums to watch the festivities on big screens and rally with the players.

"This is a bright and shining moment," Mayor Michael Nutter said. "We're going to have a great time."

But he cautioned against the scattered vandalism that marred the postgame revelry late Wednesday and early Thursday. Police reported 76 arrests and several vandalized businesses; they are also examining photos and video of the crowds to identify and arrest additional offenders.

"You can be joyous; you cannot be a jackass," Nutter said. "That kind of idiotic, destructive behavior will not be accepted in the city of Philadelphia."

AP

Fans celebrate outside Citizens Bank Park after Game 5 of the baseball World Series in Philadelphia, Wednesday, Oct. 29, 2008. The Phillies defeated the Tampa Bay Rays 4-3 to win the series.

The Phillies parade begins downtown at noon on Friday, and is expected to take about 90 minutes to cover approximately four miles to the sports complex in South Philadelphia. Team officials said the players will attend a rally at Citizens Bank Park and make a brief appearance at Lincoln Financial Field, where the Eagles play.

Free tickets to the two stadiums were gone in less than 90 minutes after becoming available on the Phillies' Web site Thursday.

Officials stressed the importance of using public transportation Friday, though they cautioned that buses, trains and subways are likely to be operating at full capacity.

"Patience is going to be critical, and frankly so is common sense," said Rina Cutler, deputy mayor for transportation.

Fans continued the celebration on Thursday, snapping up World Series T-shirts, pennants and hats. At one downtown sporting goods outlet, at least 100 people stood in a line wrapping around the inside of the store as they waited to pay for their merchandise.

The city's two main newspapers, The Philadelphia Inquirer and Philadelphia Daily News, sold out of their first run of 350,000 copies and ended up printing another 350,000 to be available by Thursday afternoon, publisher Brian Tierney said.

The Phillies' victory over the Tampa Bay Rays also means Nutter gets to enjoy a meal of Florida seafood. He won a bet with three Tampa-area officials—St. Petersburg Mayor Rick Baker, Clearwater Mayor Frank Hibbard and Tampa Mayor Pam Iorio—who will be sending him coconut shrimp, stone crab claws, Cuban sandwiches, key lime pie and cigars.

Had the Phillies lost, Nutter would have been sending cheesesteaks, soft pretzels and Tastykakes to Florida.

The last time a Philadelphia team won a major championship was in 1983, when the 76ers won the NBA title. The Phillies won their only other World Series in 1980.

Rays struggle offensively, lose Series in five games

By FRED GOODALL
AP SPORTS WRITER

AP

Tampa Bay Rays' Evan Longoria, foreground, is consoled by his teammate Cliff Floyd after their defeat in Game 5 of the baseball World Series in Philadelphia, Wednesday, Oct. 29, 2008.

PHILADELPHIA (AP)—The worst-to-first Tampa Bay Rays didn't bedevil Philadelphia for long.

After a late rally to tie Game 5, Part I at 2-all before it was suspended for rain Monday night, the Rays couldn't sustain the momentum over the final three innings, losing 4-3 Wednesday.

Resilient all season long during an improbable run to the AL pennant, the young Rays came up short in every possible way in losing on baseball's biggest stage to the Phillies four games to one.

Good pitching, solid defense and timely hitting were the recipe for success during the regular season. The Rays didn't get any of those ingredients against the Phillies, especially during the three away games.

They stumbled in World Series, making uncharacteristic mistakes on defense and struggling at the plate, with Carlos Pena and Evan Longoria going 0-for-31 with 15 strikeouts before finally pulling out of their slides early in Game 5.

Longoria went 1-for-20 with two RBIs and nine strikeouts. Pena was 2-for-17 with two RBIs and six strikeouts. Without the sluggers delivering their usual production, the Rays hit three homers after clubbing a record 16 against the Red Sox in the ALCS.

Tampa manager Joe Maddon and his players felt like they gained momentum by erasing a 2-0 deficit before play was stopped Monday and liked their chances of taking the series back to Tropicana Field, where they compiled the best home record in baseball this year.

Longoria and Pena both delivered their first World Series hits and drove in runs spawning hope before the suspension. Rocco Baldelli took up where they left off, delivering his first hit of the series—a solo homer Wednesday night—to make it 3-3 in the seventh.

The Rays, who had never won more than 70 games in a season before this year, held off Boston for the AL East title and rebuffed another challenge from the Red Sox when they took the AL championship series in seven games.

Ex-A's skipper Ken Macha named Brewers manager

MILWAUKEE (AP)—Ken Macha gets to manage again. That's because Brewers general manager Doug Melvin is a big believer in second chances. The 58-year-old Macha was hired Thursday as the manager of the Brewers, taking over the role from Dale Sveum following the team's first postseason appearance since 1982.

"One of the things I'm going to enjoy here I think is the relationship with Doug," said Macha, who spent the last two years as a television analyst. "He's been very honest with me, straightforward. He's more of a delegator. He's going to let me go out and do my job as a manager and I'm going to be very grateful for that."

That's a far cry from Oakland, where Macha took the A's to a pair of AL West titles but had an odd relationship with general manager Billy Beane and lost his job after the 2005 season for a week only to return in 2006.

"The four years in Oakland I learned a tremendous amount of baseball, don't get me wrong," Macha said. "I can be nothing but a better manager now that I come here to Milwaukee."

Melvin said Boston manager Terry Francona, once Macha's bench coach, strongly recommended his former boss. Melvin cited Francona, Joe Torre and Charlie Manuel as managers who got another shot and won titles.

"I got let go myself. I'm a big believer in second chances," said Melvin, who was GM in Texas from 1996-2001. "This isn't someone who has had three chances, four chances, five chances. This is someone with a winning background who is a baseball lifer."

Macha replaces Sveum, who became interim manager when Ned Yost was fired with 12 games left in the regular season. Sveum is expected to return to the coaching staff in some capacity.

Both Melvin and Macha reached out to Sveum, who was dropped from consideration Oct. 17, and Macha encouraged him to keep his dream of being a manager one day.

"I really feel that Dale will be a plus to this staff," Macha said. "I'm hoping that he stays."

Macha also tried to dispel the notion that he'd lost touch with his players in Oakland, including Jason Kendall, now the Brewers catcher.

"I've got a couple things to say about that. No. 1, the job of the manager is really not to be buddies with all the players. You have to make very difficult decisions over the course of the year," he said. "Sometimes players get a little personal and think it's personal. It really isn't."

Macha led Oakland to a 368-260 record. He was fired two days after the Athletics were swept by Detroit in the 2006 AL championship series, a result that frustrated players.

"I think if you go back and talk to those players now, they might have a little bit of a different take," Macha said.

Melvin said the common theme of all the candidates he interviewed was that each felt there had been a communication breakdown. Willie Randolph and Bob Brenly also were finalists for the job.

"It's pretty ironic that every one of them felt that was the reason that they were let go and these were managers that had winning records," Melvin said.

Six years ago, Macha was considered a leading candidate to become the Brewers manager when Doug Melvin became GM, but Macha was promoted from bench coach to manager in Oakland and Yost was hired.

Milwaukee went 90-72 last season and won the wild-card berth on the final day. The Brewers then lost in four games to Philadelphia, the eventual World Series champs, in the first round of the playoffs.

But even with a deep core of young players, the Brewers will look much different next season because of 12 potential free agents, including aces CC Sabathia and Ben Sheets. Melvin said it will not be fair to judge Macha based on the team's recent success.

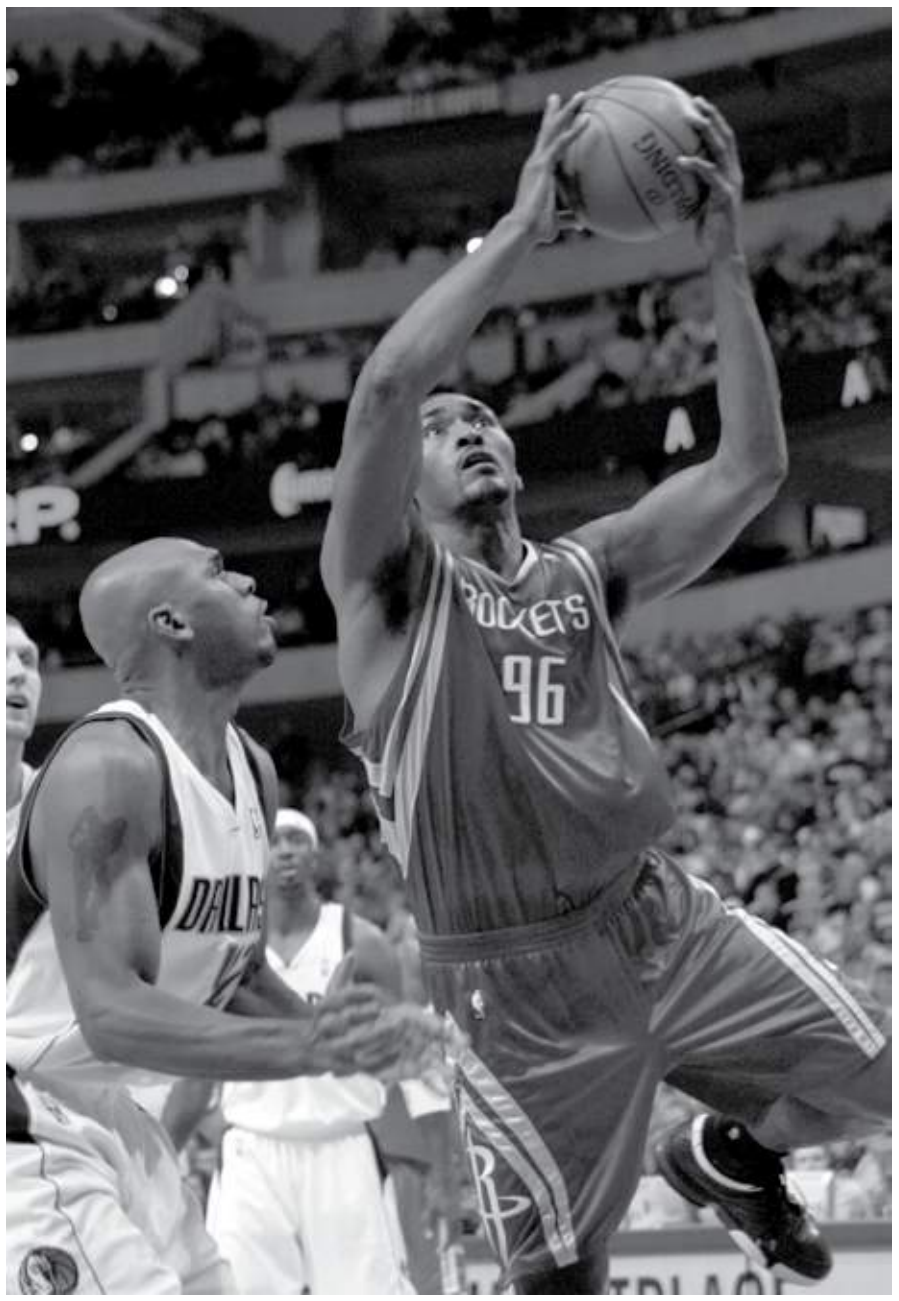
"I have no idea what this team is going to look like in January," Melvin said. "He can't be judged on what we've done in the past because the team's going to be different, he's got to be judged on the team that's been given to him."

Yao, Artest lead Rockets past Mavs

DALLAS (AP)—Yao Ming and Ron Artest powered a 16-2 run late in the fourth quarter, carrying the Houston Rockets to a 112-102 victory over the Dallas Mavericks on Thursday night in the debut of new Mavs coach Rick Carlisle.

Yao finished with 30 points and 13 rebounds, and Artest scored 29 points. He had seven points in the decisive run, which began with the game tied at 92. Along the way, he also showed his allegiance to his new big man.

After Yao was fouled hard and caught a late elbow from Dallas' Josh Howard, Artest rushed between Yao and Howard. Officials quickly got involved, then decided to give Artest a technical foul. Yao then showed his allegiance by telling an official, "He was trying to separate us." The new teammates walked away slapping hands.



AP

Houston Rockets forward Ron Artest (96) goes to the basket against Dallas Mavericks guard Jerry Stackhouse (42) in the first half of their NBA basketball game in Dallas, Thursday, Oct. 30, 2008.

The Mavericks got within eight in the final minutes, then Dirk Nowitzki blocked a layup by Houston's Aaron Brooks, bringing fans to their feet. But Nowitzki missed a turnaround 12-footer on the other end and the result was never in doubt again.

Nowitzki scored 36 points, but had only one in the fourth quarter—on Artest's technical. Howard had 28 points and 11 rebounds, and Jason Kidd had seven points, seven rebounds and 12 assists.

Houston's Tracy McGrady scored 16 points, making only three of 10 shots, and sat out the fourth quarter. He's still recovering from offseason operations on his left knee and left shoulder. Brooks, who was supposed to be out one to three weeks with an ankle injury, had 14 points, including a wild 3-pointer that started the key run.

Carlisle is promising a faster offense predicated on tough defense. He was half right as Dallas got 37 fast-break points. Problem was, the defense hardly slowed Houston.

The Rockets hit 50 points midway through the second quarter and had 85 through three quarters. They had only 82 in their opener at home the night before.

Before tipoff, Mavs swingman Jerry Stackhouse addressed the crowd, saying, "It's gonna be fun, it's gonna be fast. Put on your seat belts. Let's do it!" Then Dallas opened the Carlisle era with a 24-second violation.

The Mavericks had three turnovers and three fouls in a little more than 2 minutes. Nowitzki didn't score the first 6 minutes. But Dallas still managed to score 33 points in the opening period, getting 16 on fast breaks. Kidd set the tempo and Howard helped push it. During a 13-2 run, Howard scored nine points and had an assist. He scored 15 points in the first quarter.

Hornets 108, Suns 95

In Phoenix, New Orleans held off a rally to spoil the home debut of new Phoenix coach Terry Porter.

Chris Paul had 20 points, 10 assists and eight rebounds for the Hornets, who never trailed and had made a 2-0 start to the new season.

The Suns committed 24 turnovers, resulting in 21 New Orleans points.§

Cavaliers 96, Bobcats 79

In Cleveland, LeBron James scored 22 points as Cleveland won its home opener by downing Charlotte.

Daniel Gibson had 20 of his 25 points in the first half when Cleveland opened a 17-point lead. The Cavaliers spoiled well-traveled coach Larry Brown's debut with the Bobcats.

James just missed a triple-double, adding nine rebounds and nine assists in only 30 minutes.

NBA BRIEFS

Lakers agree to extension with Andrew Bynum

EL SEGUNDO, Calif. (AP)—The Los Angeles Lakers signed Andrew Bynum to a contract extension Thursday, removing the possibility the 21-year-old center would become an unrestricted free agent next summer. Terms of the deal were not disclosed. "We're extremely happy to have signed Andrew to this extension, which will secure his immediate future with the franchise," Lakers general manager Mitch Kupchak said in a statement. "Andrew has shown a vast array of skills for a player his size and if he continues to stay dedicated and work hard to improve, he has an excellent chance to develop into one of the top players in the NBA." Bynum, the 10th overall pick in the 2005 draft, will make $2.8 million this season. If an agreement hadn't been reached by Friday, the Lakers wouldn't have been able to negotiate with him until after the season and he would have become an unrestricted free agent. "This has been a fantastic week for me so far: turning 21, winning our first two games of the season, and now getting this new contract signed," Bynum said. "This gives me and my family financial security, and more importantly, cements my future with the Lakers, which in my opinion is the best organization in all of professional sports. I couldn't be happier." Bynum's agent, David Lee, didn't immediately return a call seeking comment.

Official: Pistons' Maxiell agrees to $20M deal

DETROIT (AP)—The Detroit Pistons took another step toward ensuring they will have players to replace their aging frontcourt. The Pistons and Jason Maxiell agreed on a $20 million, four-year contract extension, a basketball official told The Associated Press on Thursday on the condition of anonymity because the deal had not been signed. The 25-year-old Maxiell is in the final year of his contract and decided to stick with the team that drafted him 26th overall in 2005 instead of becoming a free agent after the season. He had career highs last season, averaging 7.9 points on 54 percent shooting along with 5.3 rebounds, 1.2 blocks, 21.5 minutes per game. The 6-foot-7, 260-pound forward is one of the Pistons' top reserves and likely will have a larger role in the years to come. Rasheed Wallace, who is in the last year of his contract, and Antonio McDyess, who is in the first season of a two-year extension, are both 34 years old. Detroit drafted Maxiell late in the first round out of Cincinnati three years ago after coming up just short of repeating as NBA champions.

Mavs, Cowboys to co-host 2010 NBA All-Star game

DALLAS (AP)—The NBA All-Star game is coming to the new Dallas Cowboys stadium in 2010 and plenty of good seats are available - more than 100,000. Living up to the old adage about doing things bigger in Texas, the Dallas Mavericks and Cowboys are collaborating on hosting next season's showcase event. It will be among the first major events at the soon-to-be-completed, $1.1 billion facility in nearby Arlington. And, if all goes according to plan, this event will set the record for the largest crowd ever to watch an NBA game, shattering the mark of 44,735 set at the 1989 All-Star Game, not-so-coincidentally held at another Texas-sized venue, the Houston Astrodome. "It's totally outrageous," NBA commissioner David Stern said. Just wait until he hears Mavs owner Mark Cuban's idea about putting the record out of reach. "If we can get people to sit on each other's laps, it could be 200,000," Cuban said, laughing.

Report on 911 call from Thomas' home released

WHITE PLAINS, N.Y. (AP)—A newly released police report indicates the person who called 911 about an overdose at Isiah Thomas' home believed the victim had stopped breathing. The patient's name is redacted from the Town of Harrison report, which was released Thursday night under a Freedom of Information request from The Associated Press. In the report, a police officer says he went to the former Knicks coach's home in the Purchase section of Harrison around midnight Oct. 23 in response to a report of "(blank) not breathing." "Upon my arrival I assisted (another officer) who was administering O2 to (blank) lying on the kitchen floor," the report said. It does not say who made the call. Authorities have not publicly identified Thomas as the accidental overdose victim, but a person familiar with the case, speaking on condition of anonymity because the police report had not been released, confirmed to the AP that it was Thomas. A call to the person seeking comment after the police report was released was not immediately returned.

Jones and Letzig share the lead at Ocean Hammock

PALM COAST, Fla. (AP)—Kent Jones recovered from a tee shot in the rough to birdie the 18th hole Thursday for a 7-under 65, giving him a share of the lead with rookie Michael Letzig in the first round of the Ginn sur Mer Classic.

They had a two-shot margin over Ryan Palmer, who birdied three of his first five holes and eased his way to a 67.

Jones and Letzig played college golf at New Mexico a decade apart, but that's where the similarities end.

Letzig, who had never played a PGA Tour event in his life until earning his card last year through the Nationwide Tour, is 109th on the money list and is in good shape to keep his job for next year.

Jones has spent most of his 10-year career around the 125th spot on the money list—the cutoff for keeping his card—and he arrived at the Ginn Ocean Hammock Resort at No. 179.

He hacked out of waist-high native grass with a 5-iron into a fairway bunker on the par-5 18th hole, then hit 6-iron into 6 feet for an unlikely birdie that gave him a share of the lead.

"That was my best round of the year, but that's not saying much," Jones said. "I played very solid. For some reason, I seem to play better in the fall. I would like to play better earlier in the year and not put this pressure on myself, but I can't think about that."

Letzig, who has no such worries, made six of his birdies from outside 20 feet and matched Jones with a bogey-free round.

"It was all putting," Letzig said. "I pretty much secured my card last week, so there's no pressure. It's been a lot of stress all year, with a lot of middle-of-the-field finishes but the pressure is off and I'm kind of keeping relaxed out there."

Cameron Beckman, who won in Arizona last week to earn a two-year exemption on tour, kept right on rolling with birdies on two of his last three holes for a 4-under 68 to join a group that included James Driscoll, Tom Scherrer and Robert Allenby, who at No. 30 in the world is the highest-ranked player at the Ginn sur Mer Classic.

Vaughn Taylor, at No. 129 on the money list, was in a group at 69.

Jeff Overton, playing only a week after an emergency appendectomy because he has fallen to No. 126 on the money list, got off to a strong start before he settled for a 71.

Driscoll had his own medical issues, playing the last eight holes with a gash in his thumb after a tee split when he was using it to repair a pitch mark on the 11th green.

A sliver of the tee impaled itself in his thumb, but he removed it and made a 20-foot birdie putt while still dripping blood. He bandaged the wound and kept going, closing with seven pars while missing only one green and no fairways.

"These greens are hard," he said. "It was nasty. But I taped it up, and it was fine."

Defending champion Daniel Chopra, who won last year in south Florida, had two double bogeys for an 81. He wasn't the only one to had a tough day on the Conservatory Course. Davis Love III, coming off eight consecutive rounds in the 60s, had a 75.

Patrick Sheehan, holding down the 125th spot on the money list, opened with a 74.

USSP upsets Primo's Perfect Spotters beat D'Pirates

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
n_rodriguez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

As the going gets tough, the top teams lost to the underdogs.

For the second straight playing date, Obyan Division leader Primo's Home Boys dropped their game in the ongoing 2008 Budweiser Open 8-Ball League.

USSP Fotten Palau shrugged off a first round loss to score its biggest win in the tournament against the pacesetting Home Boys, 3-1.

The team of Mie Rengiil, Taylor Watanabe, R.E. Rengiil, Ron Chisato, and John Mongami lost the first round, 33-46, but took the next two rounds with scores of 48-33, 45-34 and total of 123-113.

The Home Boys are still in the lead with 26 wins and 16 losses but the second running Perfect Spotters closed the gap with its 27-17 record following their 3-1 triumph over receding D-Pirates Huwa.

With the victory, Fotten Palau moved up to third place with 23-21, while D'Pirates skidded to fourth with 22-22.

In the other game, VFW Warriors also improved its record via a 4-0 thrashing off Coral Reef Barracuda.

The Warriors are now 17-27 and the Barracudas are 15-29.

In the Agingan Division, tournament leader PTI Voyagers also fell on the wayside and their lead was chopped to a mere one win and one loss difference by their conquerors, the SaipanCell Hustlers, who took the game away with a 3-1 decision.

The Hustlers recovered from a first round loss despite a 35-35 count as they won the next two rounds, 41-32, 37-29 for a total score of 113-96.

The Voyagers are still in the lead with 33-11, while the Hustlers are second with 32-12, Islander Rent A Car is third with 27-17, Godfather's Rock Steady fourth 15-29, USSP Wat Ever fifth 14-30, and Coral Reef Shark Attack 11-33.

Rock Steady defeated Wat Ever, 3-1 while Islander outplayed Coral Reef, 4-0.

Memorial Classic takes place on Nov. 8

The Refaluwasch Golf Association will be holding its Inaugural Memorial Classic on Nov. 8 at the Marianas Country Club.

Club tournament director Jess Wabol said the Memorial Classic replaces the Turkey Shoot to honor RGA's departed members Plas Tagabuel, Sid K. Peter, and Tony Taitano.

Wabol said unlike the annual Turkey Shoot—which is strictly for RGA members—the Memorial Classic will be open to all golfers in the CNMI.

The affable former Oleai Elementary School principal also invited players from Saipan Golf Association, Fil-Taga Golf Association, Korean Golf Association, and other clubs on Saipan to take part in the tournament.

Showtime for next week's Memorial Classic is at 6:30am with tee time set an hour later at 7:30am. Entry fee for the one-day tournament is $100 and entitles participants to a wonderful round of golf, a chance to win cash prizes in the both low gross and double Peoria categories, a ticket to the awards banquet immediately following the competition, and an opportunity to donate to a worthy cause. ***(RGA)***

MIGS

From Page 28

baseline toward the middle, and made the basket, with 31 seconds remaining in the game.

Estolas had a chance to tie the game when he was fouled on his way to a layup. But Estolas continued to struggle from the 15-foot line, splitting his charities anew and allowing MIGS to keep the lead, 123-122, with 27 seconds left in the extension period.

C&R played pressured defense in the ensuing play forcing Tamayo to take a hurried shot and miss. But MIGS got the ball back when Errol Peredo lost the ball to the left sideline near C&R's bench as he was trapped by two defenders.

C&R coach Marvin Deocares sued for time to set up a defensive play, which resulted to C&R giving up a foul away from the ball with MIGS getting ready for an inbound.

The game was halted as both teams were confused on the penalty for Peredo's foul on Tamayo.

In FIBA rules, a foul away from the ball gives the offensive team two technical free throws and possession.

But the league's ground rules considered the said foul as a personal foul, thus awarding only two free throws to the offensive team.

There was also confusion on the player making two trips to the line with Tamayo moving away from the foul line while MIGS was trying to put either Cadagat or White Capalad to the free throw area.

Finally, Tamayo went to the foul line and cast off any doubts about his free throw shooting when he made a pair of charities with the ball hitting nothing but the bottom of the net on both occasions.

Tamayo's two charities widened MIGS's lead to three, 125-122, with seven seconds remaining in the game.

Peredo tried to redeem himself from his previous error when he attempted a game-tying triple from the right sideline, but muffed the shot. Estolas claimed the offensive board, but he ran out of time trying to move back beyond the arc to pull up another trey, helping MIGS to keep its clean slate.

The loss to MIGS put John Artates and Melvin Capalad's efforts into waste. Artates made back-to-back triples in the last minute of the match to put C&R in the lead, 108-107, while Capalad canned two pressure-packed free throws to increase the lead to three, 110-107, before Cadagat drilled the game-tying trey.

MIGS won despite losing four key players due to five fouls. Aba Tagle and Banjo Basilla fouled out in the fourth quarter, while Bernardo joined them in the showers midway in the extension period. Lerio also fouled out in the last minute of overtime. Tamayo and Demapan took the place of Lerio and Bernardo and lifted MIGS to its first close win.

MIGS had a 30-point winning margin average in its first three wins.

Cadagat paced MIGS with his 31 points, his third 30-point plus performance in the league. The impressive MIGS guard added five rebounds and nine assists, and was perfect from the free throw line in the fourth period, hitting 4-for-4 to keep his team afloat in that canto.

C&R could have won the game in regulation, but it went 9-for-15 from the foul line with Estolas going 1-for-4 in the fourth period and Peredo missing his last two charities.

MIGS was spotless in the fourth, firing 9-for-9.

MIGS 125 – Cadagat 31, Lerio 29, Bernardo 21, Basila 12, Pantaleon 10, Capalad 8, Tamayo 4, Demapan 4.

C&R/NRD 122 – Cruz 24, Estolas 24, Peredo 22, Capalad 18, Artates 11, Camacho 9, Gamboa 7, Chan 5, Villacrusis 2.

Scoring by quarters: 25-23, 48-52, 78-74, 110-110, 125-122 (OT).

ADVENTURE

From Page 28

traditional, self-supported, and team-oriented adventure racing format.

The sprint races will have a Pro division and a Social division.

"Those new to adventure racing who wish to participate but do not have a teammate will be paired with an experienced adventure racer upon registration on race day and will compete in the Social division," GEAR noted.

Equipment needed for the races include a mountain bike, helmet, hydration pack, running shoes, and boonie stomping essentials such as a compass, gloves and sunscreen.

The annual Ford Tough GEAR will be designed for teams to finish in 14- to 24-hours.

Teams of four from Guam, Saipan, Japan, and throughout the region will only have access to back-up supplies and support crews at various transition areas throughout the day.

Racers will also encounter unique mystery events along the course presented by Triple J Ford, Burke Engineering, GTA TeleGuam, Hornet Sports, the Overhang Club, Hangin High, Java Junction, and other supporting businesses that will further test the mind and body.

Teamwork and heart are essential in completing the Ford Tough GEAR races.

Grant Loveridge, a multiple champion of the event, said "The reward of adventure racing is priceless. You compete in the open wilderness surviving on what you carry on your back, problem solving with your teammates and being challenged physically and mentally by the course set before you. Life just doesn't get much better than this, to put it simply. Competing in an adventure race is like compressing a lot of life into a relatively short amount of time. And let's face it, what is life for if we are not living it?"

While some compete in the two-hour sprint races as training runs for the Ford Tough GEAR, others who do not intend to compete in the annual, much longer race participate in the sprints to visit areas of Guam in an unparalleled way, to learn new skills and for the thrill of competition and accomplishment.

Mountain bikers, endurance runners, biathletes, triathlon racers and other multi-sport enthusiasts seeking an even bigger challenge, adventure racing may be for you.

If interested in adventure racing or becoming a sponsor for these events, please contact GEAR Sports Management at 483-9453, 888-7908 or adventurerace.guam@gmail.com. ***(PR)***

USSP

From Page 28

at 233-1984.

Last year, Rolly Villanueva won the Halloween 8-Ball Tournament after besting a 16-player field.

Villanueva roared through the 8-ball winners' bracket, defeating Ryan Odicta, Ed Suzuki, and Victor S. Hocog in quick fashion before dismissing Ed Manucdoc in the championship to win the Hallow's Eve event. ***(Mark Rabago)***

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

NBA STANDINGS

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Boston	1	0	1.000	–
New Jersey	1	0	1.000	–
New York	1	0	1.000	–
Toronto	1	0	1.000	–
Philadelphia	0	1	.000	1

Southeast Division

Atlanta	1	0	1.000	–
Charlotte	0	1	.000	1
Miami	0	1	.000	1
Orlando	0	1	.000	1
Washington	0	1	.000	1

Central Division

Chicago	1	0	1.000	–
Detroit	1	0	1.000	–
Cleveland	1	1	.500	1/2
Milwaukee	1	1	.500	1/2
Indiana	0	1	.000	1

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Southwest Division

Houston	2	0	1.000	–
New Orleans	2	0	1.000	–
Dallas	0	1	.000	1 1/2
Memphis	0	1	.000	1 1/2
San Antonio	0	1	.000	1 1/2

Northwest Division

Minnesota	1	0	1.000	_
Utah	1	0	1.000	_
Denver	0	1	.000	1
Oklahoma City	0	1	.000	1
Portland	0	1	.000	1

Pacific Division

L.A. Lakers	2	0	1.000	_
Phoenix	1	1	.500	1
Golden State	0	1	.000	1 1/2
L.A. Clippers	0	1	.000	1 1/2
Sacramento	0	1	.000	1 1/2

Yesterday's Games

Cleveland 96, Charlotte 79
Houston 112, Dallas 102
New Orleans 108, Phoenix 95

GINN SUR MER CLASSIC SCORES

PALM COAST, Florida (AP)–Scores Thursday from the Ginn sur Mer Classic, a $4.6 million (3.53 million euros) U.S. PGA Tour event at 7,663-yard, par-72 Conservatory course at Ginn Hammock Beach Resort:

Note: Play suspended due to darkness with five players still on the course. The round will be completed Friday

PARTIAL FIRST ROUND

Michael Letzig	32-33	65
Kent Jones	34-31	65
Ryan Palmer	34-33	67
James Driscoll	33-35	68
Cameron Beckman	33-35	68
Tom Scherrer	34-34	68
Robert Allenby	34-34	68
Vaughn Taylor	33-36	69
Mathias Gronberg	33-36	69
Nick O'Hern	35-34	69
Chris Stroud	37-32	69
Jeff Gove	36-34	70
Lee Janzen	34-36	70
Steve Lowery	34-36	70
John Huston	34-36	70
Kenneth Ferrie	36-34	70
Rod Perry	35-35	70
Peter Lonard	34-36	70
Robert Garrigus	35-35	70
Bo Van Pelt	34-36	70
Matt Jones	33-37	70
Bob Tway	35-35	70
Ken Duke	38-32	70
Bob Sowards	34-36	70
Jason Dufner	33-37	70
Nicholas Thompson	35-36	71
Matt Kuchar	35-36	71
Todd Hamilton	35-36	71
Brad Faxon	37-34	71
David Duval	34-37	71
Eric Axley	34-37	71
J.J. Henry	36-35	71
Jeff Overton	37-34	71
Marco Dawson	35-36	71
Gavin Coles	35-36	71
Michael Allen	36-35	71
Jerry Kelly	36-35	71
Troy Matteson	35-36	71
George McNeill	35-36	71
Tim Petrovic	37-34	71
Jason Gore	35-36	71
Robert Gamez	37-35	72
Olin Browne	38-34	72
Glen Day	36-36	72
Chris DiMarco	37-35	72
Carl Pettersson	35-37	72
Frank Lickliter II	37-35	72
Brett Rumford	36-36	72
Bob Heintz	36-36	72
Michael Sim	37-35	72
Justin Bolli	35-37	72
Todd Demsey	36-36	72
Martin Laird	36-36	72
Michael Bradley	34-38	72
Tim Clark	34-38	72
Steve Marino	37-35	72
Greg Kraft	37-35	72
Brian Gay	36-36	72
Joe Durant	32-40	72
Dicky Pride	36-36	72
Jay Williamson	37-35	72
Brad Elder	36-36	72
Alejandro Canizares	36-36	72
Doug LaBelle II	35-37	72
Jesper Parnevik	37-36	73
Grant Waite	37-36	73
John Riegger	37-36	73
Brenden Pappas	37-36	73
Zach Johnson	35-38	73
J.B. Holmes	38-35	73
Kevin Stadler	34-39	73
Y.E. Yang	37-36	73
Jeff Maggert	36-37	73
Mark Wilson	36-37	73
Omar Uresti	37-36	73
Brett Quigley	35-38	73
Rich Beem	37-36	73
Richard Johnson	36-37	73
Jimmy Walker	37-36	73
Wesley Graham	35-38	73
Nick Flanagan	37-36	73
Ryan Armour	40-34	74
Marc Turnesa	36-38	74
Chad Collins	37-37	74
Cody Freeman	37-37	74
Paul Claxton	37-37	74
Briny Baird	36-38	74
J.P. Hayes	39-35	74
Charles Warren	37-37	74
Richard S. Johnson	37-37	74
John Rollins	35-39	74
Jim McGovern	37-37	74
Tim Wilkinson	37-37	74
Patrick Sheehan	39-35	74
Brian Davis	38-36	74
David Lutterus	39-35	74
Davis Love III	36-39	75
John Merrick	36-39	75
Steve Allan	36-39	75
Scott Sterling	39-36	75
Bob Estes	37-38	75
Will MacKenzie	37-38	75
Heath Slocum	37-38	75
Brad Adamonis	37-38	75
Billy Andrade	38-37	75
Chris Riley	39-36	75
Matthew Kohn	39-36	75
Brad Hauer	38-37	75
Tag Ridings	39-37	76
Harrison Frazar	37-39	76
Cliff Kresge	37-39	76
Jason Bohn	36-40	76
Carlos Franco	35-41	76
Jin Park	42-34	76
John Mallinger	42-35	77
Charles Howell III	41-36	77
Jason Day	40-37	77
Ted Purdy	40-37	77
Jon Mills	38-39	77
Craig Kanada	41-36	77
Tommy Gainey	41-36	77
Mark Hensby	41-37	78
Alex Cejka	42-36	78
Travis Perkins	39-39	78
Jason Allred	42-38	80
Daniel Chopra	40-41	81
Nathan Green	43-38	81

Leaderboard

	SCORE	THRU
1. Michael Letzig	-7	F
1. Kent Jones	-7	F
3. Ryan Palmer	-5	F
4. James Driscoll	-4	F
4. Cameron Beckman	-4	F
4. Tom Scherrer	-4	F
4. Robert Allenby	-4	F
8. Vaughn Taylor	-3	F
8. Mathias Gronberg	-3	F
8. Nick O'Hern	-3	F
8. Chris Stroud	-3	F

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOCAL SCORES

PILCOWA Standings

MIGS	4	0
Diamond Auto Care	2	1
Century Insurance	2	1
Aon Insurance	2	2
Olivos/Reliance Const.	0	3
C&R/NRG	1	2
San Miguel Light	0	4

USSP upsets Primo's Perfect Spotters beat D'Pirates

As the going gets tough, the top teams lost to the underdogs. For the second straight playing date, Obyan Division leader Primo's Home Boys dropped their game in the ongoing 2008 Budweiser Open 8-Ball League.

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Saipan Tribune
Sports

Mayor wants good behavior at World Series parade

Many baseball fans here would not speak the "P" word in the anxious days leading up to the city's World Series title, lest they jinx the team.

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MIGS outlasts C&R/NRG in OT

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

MIGS survived its toughest test so far in the Inaugural 2008 PILCOWA-San Miguel Beer Basketball League, pulling off a pulsating 125-122 overtime win over C&R Distributor/NRG Thursday night at the CIC Centre Basketball Court in Garapan.

Bonbon Cadagat, Bart Demapan, and Jeremy Tamayo made crucial baskets to lift MIGS to a three-point win and keep their team's perfect record intact after four games.

Cadagat's lean-in triple in the last seven seconds of the fourth quarter sent the game into overtime.

Cadagat made the game-tying basket after Jun Estolas committed an error.

Estolas picked up the loose ball off a Sonny Lerio missed triple and was slightly bumped by a MIGS defender. Estolas was expecting a foul will be called against MIGS, so he held on to the ball and took extra steps, committing a traveling violation.

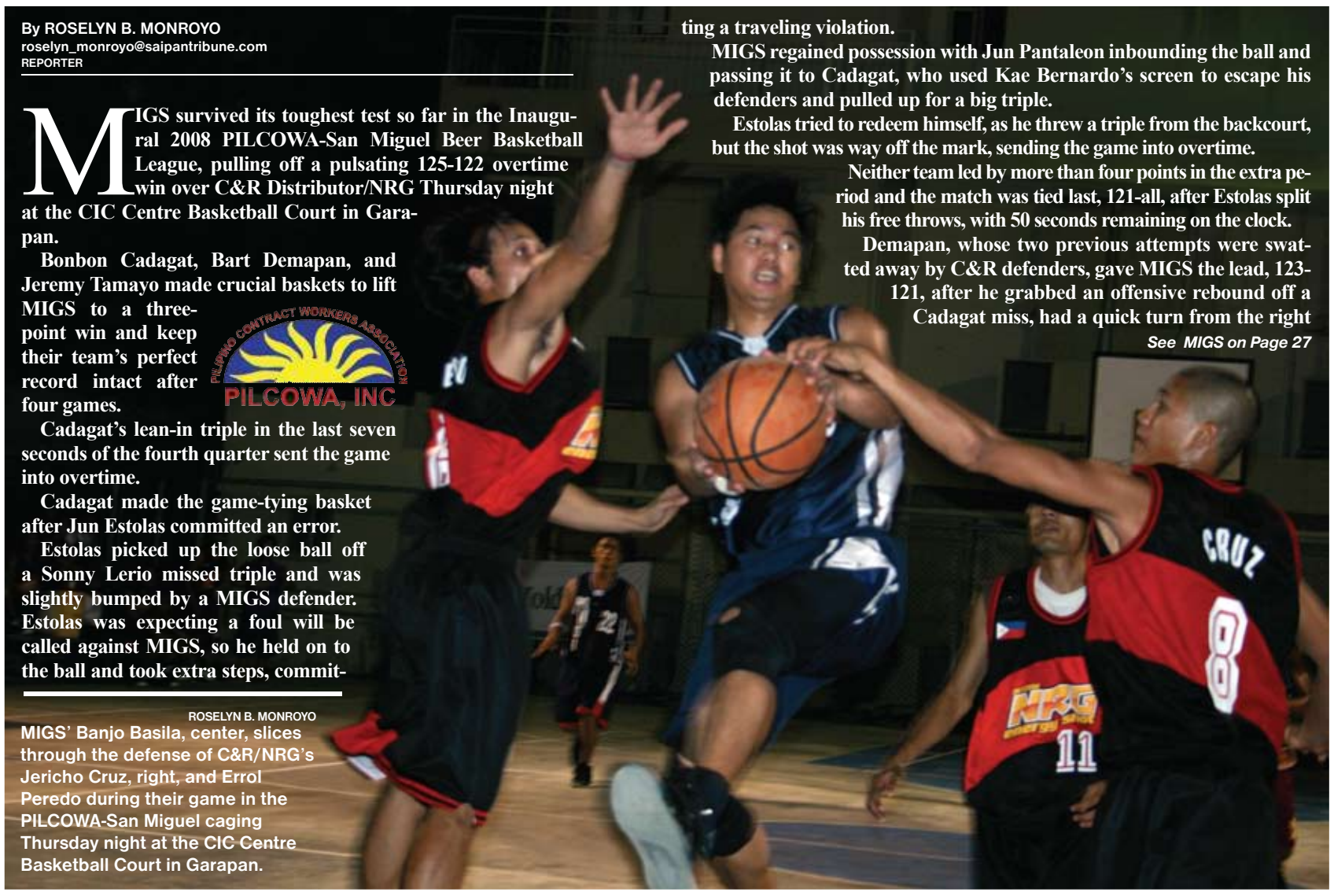
MIGS regained possession with Jun Pantaleon inbounding the ball and passing it to Cadagat, who used Kae Bernardo's screen to escape his defenders and pulled up for a big triple.

Estolas tried to redeem himself, as he threw a triple from the backcourt, but the shot was way off the mark, sending the game into overtime.

Neither team led by more than four points in the extra period and the match was tied last, 121-all, after Estolas split his free throws, with 50 seconds remaining on the clock.

Demapan, whose two previous attempts were swatted away by C&R defenders, gave MIGS the lead, 123-121, after he grabbed an offensive rebound off a Cadagat miss, had a quick turn from the right

See MIGS on Page 27



ROSELYN B. MONROYO
MIGS' Banjo Basila, center, slices through the defense of C&R/NRG's Jericho Cruz, right, and Errol Peredo during their game in the PILCOWA-San Miguel caging Thursday night at the CIC Centre Basketball Court in Garapan.

USSP Halloween 8-ball tournament set tonight

Due to popular demand, USS Peleliu Club will host its annual Halloween 8-Ball Tournament tonight, Nov. 1, at the famous Garapan watering hole and sports bar.

USSP owner and veteran cue artist Ken Phillips said the Halloween billiards competition will adopt a double-elimination format and starts at 7pm. Entry fee is pegged at $10

He added that cash prizes will be given for first, second, and third places and there will be in-house giveaways as well.

USSP also is also holding 8-ball tournaments on Mondays beginning 8pm, with an affordable $5 entry fee and the same double-elimination format.

The weekly tournaments are perfect practice for our annual Marianas Turkey Shoot, which will be held on Nov. 26 this year. "Here's your chance to win cash and a turkey for your family and friends," said Phillips.

For more information about USSP's Halloween 8-Ball Tournament, contact Ken or Rose Phillips

See USSP on Page 27

NMA sets second leg of cross country series

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The second leg of the Northern Marianas Athletics All Schools Cross Country Series will be held on Nov. 8 at the Airport Field.

Next week's event will be the last warm-up for the All Schools championship set for Nov. 15.

The first warm-up was held last week with students from Saipan International School, Whispering Palms, Marianas High School, and Kagman High School joining the races.

SIS's Jae Seung Park timed in at 10 minutes 43 seconds in the 1,500m race in the 7-and-under division.

Runners in the 7-and-under, 9-and-under, and 11-and-under divisions took the shorter course, while participants in the 14-and-under and 18-and-under ran the 5,000m course.

The same course distance will be implemented in next week's races and in the championship.

In the 11-and-under division, Gabrielle Race timed in at 7:55 to finish ahead of SIS's Emily Jones (10:05), and Jee Won Park (10:46).

MHS's Jim Lacsima clocked in at 17:27 in the 5000m race in the 14-and-under division.

Four raced in the boys' 18-and-under division with Kagman's Mark Echaure finishing the 5,000m race in 19:57, followed by teammates Jesus Iguel (20:01), Anthony Viray (21:32), and Mark Sanchez (21:32).

Kagman's Kayla Sablan clocked in 24:20 in the girls' 18-and-under race.

NMA is encouraging students and their teachers/coaches to participate in the second leg of the series and in the championship.

The Top 3 placers in each age group will receive medals, while trophies will be awarded to the top three schools.

A school will qualify in the team awards if it fields at least five runners in the races. Points will be awarded to each runner to determine the rankings of schools. The first finisher will get a point, two for second, three for third, four for fourth, five for fifth, and so on. The school with the lowest points wins the division. In case of a tie, the school with a sixth finisher wins the tiebreak.

Participants in the 7-and-under, 9-and-under, and 11-and-under age group will race first and will be followed by runners in the 14-and-under and 18-and-under divisions.

For more information on the cross country series, contact Elias Rangamar at 664-2502.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Gabrielle Race crosses the finish line in the 1,500m race in the first leg of the NMA All Schools Cross Country Series last week at the Airport Field.

Adventure racing starts this weekend in Guam

Guam Extreme Adventure Race Sports Management is glad to announce that adventure-racing season will officially start today in Hagatna, Guam.

In a recent email, GEAR said Saturday's event would be the first of six monthly sprint races that lead up to the 9th Annual Ford Tough Guam Extreme Adventure Race on May 24, 2009.

According to Action Asia Adventure Magazine "GEAR is the toughest one-day race in the region."

"The courses will be set among natural features which make Guam such a unique and beautiful sports marketing location—mountains, waterfalls, deep valleys, rivers, caves, and the ocean," GEAR said in its press release.

GEAR said the Ford Tough Sprint Series would incorporate two or more race disciplines such as mountain biking, running/trekking, kayaking, swimming, coasteering, and navigation.

These sprint races will be approximately two hours long but each race will be held in different locations and present new challenges geared to familiarize participants to the non-

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CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Saipan's own Marianas Adventurists bike down the road during the Guam Extreme Adventure Race in May 14, 2005 led by Stephan Samoyloff, Nate Hawley, Tyce Mister, and Russ Quinn.